



OHIO STATE AND NATIONWIDE ARENA TO HOST EXCITING OPENING WEEKEND TO 2017-18 NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON WITH "COUNTDOWN TO COLUMBUS"

*Buckeyes to Host Connecticut, Stanford and Louisville
in Preview to the 2018 NCAA Women's Final Four*

COLUMBUS (April 24, 2017) – The 2017-18 women's basketball season will undoubtedly end in exciting fashion in downtown Columbus but the beginning of the season won't be without its own intriguing storylines.

Ohio State and the city of Columbus are not only hosting the 2018 Women's Final Four, but they will also host the Countdown to Columbus event on the seasons' opening weekend, which features four of the best programs in the game.

Ohio State will host annual power UConn while 2017 Final Four participant Stanford will face Louisville. Those games will be played on Sunday, Nov. 12 at Nationwide Arena, site of the 2018 Final Four.

Prior to those games, Ohio State will open its season at home against Stanford on Friday, Nov. 10 at historic St. John Arena. The game will be Stanford head coach Tara VanDerveer's first game back in Columbus since she coached the Buckeyes from 1981-85. VanDerveer, who recorded her 1,000th career victory last season, led the Buckeyes to 110 victories and three NCAA Tournament appearances including the program's first trip to the Elite Eight in 1985. Her teams won the Big Ten title in four of her five seasons and she lost a total of just five games to Big Ten teams during her tenure.

The Buckeyes and Cardinal met once during VanDerveer's time at Ohio State in 1984 (a Buckeye victory) and once during her time at Stanford in the 2009 NCAA Sweet 16. Stanford would win that game 84-66 and would eventually advance to the Final Four.

Another interesting storyline headed into the weekend is that the Ohio State women's basketball program is just two wins shy of 1,000. Gaining those two wins over such storied programs like Stanford and UConn would make the milestone that much sweeter.

Game times and TV designation will be determined at a later date. Single game ticket information will be available later this fall once the full schedule is announced. Fans wishing to secure tickets for the games can purchase season tickets through the OSU Ticket Sales Team at 1-800-GOBUCKS and select option 2.



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