



City of Palms Classic schedule announced

By DAVID DORSEY • ddorsey@news-press.com • October 29, 2010

5:47 P.M. — The buzz surrounding the 38th annual State Farm City of Palms Classic continues to build, as the 16-team high school basketball tournament released its schedule today.

A record 10 defending state champions are in the field, including the reigning Class 4A state champions, the Fort Myers Green Wave.

“City of Palms is high school basketball’s closest thing to a national championship,” wrote Jason Hickman in a recent column for maxpreps.com. The Classic will tip off at 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at Bishop Verot High School’s gymnasium in Fort Myers.

The first day’s prime time games feature Las Vegas (Nev.) Bishop Gorman against North Port at 7:45 p.m. followed by Memphis (Tenn.) Melrose vs. Chicago Whitney Young.

Fort Myers will play its first Classic game at 1:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, against Alpharetta (Ga.) Milton, which won Georgia’s Class 5A state title last season. The Classic title game will begin at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, and it will be televised nationally on ESPNU.

“I think 30 years from now, people will look back at this and say that this was when the City of Palms was in its prime,” said Donnie Wilkie, vice president of Classic Basketball, Inc., and the man responsible for selecting the tournament’s field.

Executive director Ron Riley is responsible for financing it.

“Ron Riley is doing an incredible job at increasing sponsorships, and we’re on TV,” Wilkie said. “So it’s easier for me to get teams all of a sudden.”