



2024 Boardwalk Battle Field Announced/Tickets On Sale

Eight teams will compete at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach, FL from Nov. 21-23

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 12, 2024

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PRINCETON, N.J. – Introducing the first edition of the Boardwalk Battle at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach, Florida. The Ocean Center welcomes eight excellent programs with some of the best players and coaches in college basketball. You can follow any updates surrounding the tournament on X (@[boardwalkbattle](#)) and Instagram (@[boardwalk_battle](#)).

The format for the Boardwalk Battle will consist of an eight-team tournament with each team playing three games. The winners of the first-round games advance to the semifinals, while the losers move to the consolation bracket. The bracket to this year's event is available on [boardwalkbattle.net](#).

Tickets are now on sale for the Boardwalk Battle men's college basketball tournament, which will take place November 21-23 at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. Tickets may be purchased in advance at [TicketMaster.com](#) or on the day of competition at the Ocean Center box office.

The field for the event consists of East Carolina, Jacksonville State, James Madison, La Salle, Stetson, Toledo, UC San Diego, and UIC.

East Carolina -- Head Coach: Michael Schwartz (American Athletic Conference)

Schwartz enters his 3rd season in charge of the Pirates with the hopes of breaking through in 2024-25. Schwartz is four games under .500 through his first two seasons with East Carolina.

Jacksonville State – Head Coach: Ray Harper (Conference USA)

Ray Harper leads Jacksonville State into Boardwalk Battle in his 9th season in charge of the Gamecocks. Harper posts 146 wins and a (.566) winning percentage during his first 8 seasons on the job.

James Madison -- Head Coach: *Preston Spradlin (Sun Belt Conference)*

Preston Spradlin enters his first season as head coach at James Madison after a successful six year run at Morehead State which culminated in a program-record 26 wins in 2023-24. Last season, JMU won a program record 32 games and defeated Wisconsin in the First Round of the NCAA Tournament.

La Salle -- Head Coach: *Fran Dunphy (Atlantic 10 Conference)*

Fran Dunphy begins his 3rd season with the Explorers. Building on his wildly successful career, Dunphy won his 600th game as a coach in 2024. Dunphy has posted a 611-361 record during his 32 seasons and hopes to add to that tally during the 2024-25 season.

Stetson -- Head Coach: *Donnie Jones (Atlantic Sun Conference)*

Donnie Jones begins his 6th season at the helm for Stetson. Jones led the Hatters to the school's first NCAA Tournament in 2024. Stetson also looks to continue their success in the Ocean Center, having won the 2023 Sunshine Slam Ocean Bracket.

Toledo -- Head Coach: *Tod Kowalczyk (Mid-American Conference)*

Kowalczyk enters his 15th season leading the Rockets. Toledo has won four straight MAC regular season championships and hopes to continue their run of success in 2024-25.

UC San Diego -- Head Coach: *Eric Olen (Big West Conference)*

The Tritons begin their 5th season as a Division 1 program in 2024-25. Coach Eric Olen led UC San Diego to their most successful season in 2023-24 winning 20 games for the first time in school history. Olen will lead UC San Diego for his 12th season this year.

UIC -- Head Coach: *Rob Ehsan (Missouri Valley Conference)*

UIC will begin the 2024-25 season with a new head coach. Rob Ehsan takes over after spending the last three seasons as an assistant at Stanford. Previously, Ehsan posted a (.571) winning percentage during his four years as the head coach of UAB.

About the Gazelle Group

The Gazelle Group is a sports marketing firm, specializing in event production and management, client representation, and sponsorship consulting. Gazelle produces numerous nationally-recognized college sports events, such as the Empire Classic, Legends Classic, Gotham Classic, Sunshine Slam, College Basketball Invitational, Kwik Trip Holiday Face-Off, Boardwalk Battle, and Jersey Jam as well as on-campus events at Duke, Kentucky, Ohio State, Marquette and other institutions across the country. For more information on the Gazelle Group, please visit www.gazellegroup.com.

About the Northeast Conference

The Northeast Conference (NEC) is the sponsoring conference of the Boardwalk Battle. Now in its 44th season, the NEC is an NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association consisting of 9 institutions of higher learning located throughout six states. For more information on the NEC, visit the official website at www.northeastconference.org or follow on Twitter [@NECsports](https://twitter.com/NECsports).