



2014 Wendy's Spring Classic Press Release #1



February 5, 2014

The 21st Wendy's Spring Classic Field is Set!

The 24 teams that will be participating in the 2014 Wendy's Spring Classic on April 11-12 (just 65 days from now) at Brookside Parks in Ashland, OH are listed below:

Red Pool
 Austintown-Fitch
 Elyria
 Hoover (N. Canton)
 Lebanon
 Maumee
 Neuqua Valley (IL)
 Springfield (Akron)
 Walsh-Jesuit

Black Pool
 Ashland
 Bloom-Carroll
 Canfield
 Greenville
 Loudonville
 Mount St. Dominic (NJ)
 Perry (Massillon)
 Ursuline (Youngstown)

Yellow Pool
 Bishop Ready
 Columbia Station
 Columbia
 Hillsdale
 Kenton Ridge
 Ladywood (MI)
 Lexington
 Strasburg-Franklin
 Windham

Actual brackets and field schedules are included on pages 6-9.

All Three 2013 Wendy's Champions Return

After unsuccessful attempts in 2011 and 2012 to employ a bracket-style format to the Spring Classic, '13 was lucky enough to see three bracket champions crowned on Saturday, April 20. Akron Springfield became the first-ever Wendy's Spring Classic champion when they defeated Canfield, 12-4 in the Red Pool Championship game. North Canton Hoover followed suit when they beat LaGrange Keystone 13-2 in the Black Pool title game. While the first two championship games were anticlimactic, that could not be said for the final game of the tournament at the Brookside Main Diamond. Lebanon defeated Bloom-Carroll 1-0 in eight innings to capture the Yellow Pool Championship game. All three champions from a year ago return to the 2014 Wendy's and will all compete in this year's Red Pool.

2014 To Feature Very Strong Field

Based on last year's post-season results, the 2014 Wendy's Spring Classic will feature a very strong field. Three of the four defending Ohio state champions (North Canton Hoover – Division I, Bloom-Carroll – Division III, Strasburg-Franklin – Division IV) will be participating at Brookside Parks as well as three of four defending Ohio state runners-up (Elyria – Division I, Springfield Kenton Ridge – Division II, Columbia Station Columbia – Division III). Along with those six teams, three more advanced to their respective Final Fours (Columbus Bishop Ready – Division III, Walsh-Jesuit – Division II, Ladywood Catholic – Michigan Division 2) while Greenville (Division II) and Lebanon (Division I) advanced to the Elite Eight. That means that nearly half of this year's competing schools advanced at least to the final eight in their respective state tournaments.

This year's teams combined to post an overall record in 2013 of 509-166 (.754) being led by North Canton Hoover's 34-0 mark. Over the past three state championship seasons, the Vikings have an overall record of 93-6 (.939). Ironically, the lowest 2013 winning percentage of any 2014 Wendy's participant was Columbus Bishop Ready who finished with a 15-16 (.484) record despite advancing to the Division III Final Four.

Vast Coaching Experience to Highlight 21st Wendy's

Along with the girls who will highlight the games from inside the foul lines, the coaches who will direct their squads from outside of the lines deserve some recognition as well. Strasburg-Franklin's Bud Weisgarber leads all 2014 Wendy's coaches with 658 wins over his career at the Tigers' helm. His .839 winning percentage is fifth on the list of this year's Wendy's coaches with 100 or more career games. Weisgarber trails North

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Canton Hoover's Jerry Goodpasture (257-28 .902), Ladywood Catholic's Scott Combs (205-25 .891), Elyria's Ken Fenik (455-81 .849) and Lebanon's Brian Kindell (225-41 .846). One other Wendy's coach with a winning percentage above .800 and more than 100 career games is Greenville's Jerrod Newland (290-59 .831). Overall, this year's Wendy's coaches have a 3,950-1,194 (.768) record.

Seems Like Old Hat...

Of course the three Ashland County teams (Hillsdale – 20th, Loudonville and Ashland – 19th appearance each) lead the field in terms of all-time Wendy's appearances. North Canton Hoover is next on the list as the Vikings will be making their 13th appearance in the Spring Classic. Ten of the 24 teams competing in the 21st Wendy's also competed in 2013 as well. Other returning teams are Canfield, Elyria, Lebanon, Neuqua Valley (IL), Massillon Perry and Windham.

Same Face, Different Place

Ashland County softball fans will see a familiar face in this year's Spring Classic but it will be in a somewhat different place. Bill Herman, who led the Loudonville Red Birds for a number of years, has taken over at Ashland High School for Wendy Packard, who resigned following the 2013 season. Herman isn't completely new to Arrow softball. He was Packard's assistant coach for the past three years.

Making their Maiden Voyage...

Of the 14 teams that did not compete in the 2013 Wendy's, five are making their first-ever trip to play in the Classic: Columbia Station Columbia, Springfield Kenton Ridge, Livonia Ladywood Catholic (MI), Maumee and Mount St. Dominic Academy (NJ). This raises the total number of schools to compete in the 21 Spring Classics to 171.

Welcome Back, Old Friends...

Austintown-Fitch is returning to the Wendy's Spring Classic for the first time since the Falcons appeared in the second Classic way back in 1995. This is the longest span between appearances of any team in this year's Classic. The Falcons' 19-year span is just one year longer than that of Columbus Bishop Ready who has not competed in the Spring Classic since 1996. *Note: Bishop Ready accepted an invitation to compete in the 1999 Wendy's but the entire Spring Classic was washed out by inclement weather.*

Falcons, Blue Devils Winningest Wendy's Teams

Hillsdale's 9-8, nine-inning win over Ashland in last year's Feature Games was the Falcons' 25th all-time Spring Classic victory moving them in to a tie with Tallmadge for the most wins ever in the Wendy's. Coach Ben Bolen's squad dropped their next two games to drop their overall Wendy's record to 25-24 (.510). The Blue Devils, who have only appeared in 14 of the previous 20 Classics and only once since 2006 (2012), have an overall Wendy's record of 25-12 (.676).

Right behind Hillsdale and Tallmadge is the Falcons' Ashland County neighbor, Loudonville, who have 24 Wendy's wins in their 18 previous appearances. The Red Birds, led by rookie coach Serena Fenton, have an overall 24-22 (.522) record. Of this year's teams, North Canton Hoover is third in Wendy's wins (23-7 .767) and fourth overall. On the opposite end of the spectrum is Ashland. The Arrows have the most losses in Wendy's play with a 14-33 (.298) record. Ashland has lost 13 straight Wendy's games since defeating Point Pleasant (WV) in nine innings on April 19, 2008. 2013 Ohio Division IV state runner-up, Colonel Crawford has the second most losses in Wendy's history with a 14-27 (.341) record and has not won a Wendy's game since, ironically, also defeating Point Pleasant 2-0 on April 22, 2006. Coach Chuck Huggins's Eagles have dropped six straight Classic games in their two appearances since.



2014 Feature Game

Ashland County neighbors and rivals, Ashland and Loudonville, will play in the 2014 Feature Game at approximately 6:45 PM on Brookside's Main Diamond on Friday, April 11. Pre-game ceremonies will include honoring Wendy's Board of Directors members Bob & Connie Edwards for their contributions to the Spring Classic and Ashland County high school softball. The Young Marines of nearby Mansfield, OH will present the Colors which will be followed by a combined chorus from Ashland and Loudonville high schools performing the Star Spangled Banner.

Wendy's Spring Classic in Cyberspace

You can find everything you ever wanted to know about the 2014 Wendy's Spring Classic by visiting our website www.wendysspringclassic.com. The Classic has joined the social media craze with a page on Facebook as well as a Twitter account (@WendysSpringCl). Thirty-eight followers can't all be wrong! You can utilize any of these mediums to follow the 21st Wendy's, including game updates.

Marquee First-Round Games

Along with the Feature Game's Ashland County battle, there are some other first round matchups to catch even the most casual softball fan's attention. The Classic will kickoff in the Red Pool on Friday, April 11 with defending Ohio Division I state champion North Canton Hoover taking on the high-powered Naperville (IL) Neuqua Valley Wildcats at 4:30 PM at Brookside Main. At the same time two of last year's three pool champions will faceoff on Brookside West #3. Akron Springfield, who won the Black Pool with a 12-4 win over Canfield, will take on Lebanon, who won the Yellow Pool with a 1-0, nine-inning win over eventual Ohio Division III state champion Bloom-Carroll.

The Black Pool will include the Feature Game (Ashland versus Loudonville) but also a clash between Greenville, who's making their first Wendy's appearance since 2010 and Caldwell (NJ) Mount St. Dominic Academy, who will be making their Spring Classic debut on Brookside West #4 at 4:30 PM. Bloom-Carroll will begin their quest for a Wendy's pool championship when they take on Canfield on Brookside West #2 at 6:20 PM in a game featuring two of last year's three pool runners-up.

Five of the eight Yellow Pool teams advanced to their state's Final Four in what could turn out to be the Classic's most competitive grouping. Defending Ohio Division IV state champion Strasburg-Franklin will face Ohio Division III regional champion Columbus Bishop Ready at 8:00 PM on Brookside West #1 in the pool's only first-round matchup of Final Four teams. If the Silver Knights are able to pull off the upset, it could set up a rematch of the 2013 Division III state semifinal game in which Columbia Station Columbia won 3-1. The Raiders will try to do their part for the rematch when they face Hillsdale at 8:30 PM at Brookside's Main Diamond.

Scholarships

The purpose of the Wendy's Spring Classic, along with bringing the top high school softball teams in the Midwest to Ashland, is to raise college scholarship money Ashland County high school softball players. To date, the Classic has awarded \$84,520 in scholarships to 106 young ladies who played softball for Ashland, Crestview, Hillsdale, Loudonville & Mapleton High schools.

Admission Price Increases

The Wendy's Spring Classic's Board of Directors voted on January 8, 2014 to increase the admission price to \$5.00 per person with children seven years of age and younger will be admitted free. The admission fee is per day and will admit people at both Brookside Main and Brookside West. Fans will only need to show their stamp upon entering the gate. A separate payment will have to be made on Friday and Saturday. The admission price has been \$4.00 per person since 2006.



2013 Records & All Time Records for 2014 Wendy's Spring Classic Teams

	2013 Record			Wendy's All-Time Records			Appearance	Last
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.		
Ashland	14	13	.519	14	33	.298	19th	2013
Austintown-Fitch	20	9	.690	2	1	.667	2nd	1995
Bishop Ready	15	16	.484	1	2	.333	3rd	1996
Bloom Carroll	29	3	.906	4	3	.571	5th	2013
Canfield	18	9	.667	5	6	.455	5th	2013
Columbia	29	5	.853	0	0	.000	1st	
Elyria	27	6	.818	14	9	.609	10th	2013
Greenville	25	7	.781	8	5	.615	5th	2010
Hillsdale	15	10	.600	25	24	.510	20th	2013
Hoover	34	0	1.000	23	7	.767	13th	2013
Kenton Ridge	31	3	.912	0	0	.000	1st	
Ladywood Catholic	35	9	.795	0	0	.000	1st	
Lebanon	26	3	.897	3	2	.600	3rd	2013
Lexington	19	8	.704	0	1	.000	2nd	2003
Loudonville	22	9	.710	24	22	.522	19th	2013
Maumee	18	9	.667	0	0	.000	1st	
Mount St.Dominic	25	7	.781	0	0	.000	1st	
Neuqua Valley	18	12	.600	3	1	.750	3rd	2013
Perry	18	8	.692	7	4	.636	6th	2013
Springfield			.000	15	3	.833	8th	2000
Strasburg-Franklin	30	5	.857	0	3	.000	2nd	2010
Ursuline	20	10	.667	3	3	.500	3rd	2010
Walsh-Jesuit	26	6	.813	13	4	.765	8th	2004
Windham	20	6	.769	0	2	.000	2nd	2013
Totals	534	173	.755	164	135	.548		

Overall Coaching Records (entering 2014 season)

Coach	School	W	L	PCT.
Bud Weisgarber	Strasburg-Franklin	658	126	.839
Ken Fenik	Elyria	455	81	.849
Lorenzo Sozio	Mount St.Dominic	426	140	.753
Mike Hamman	Lexington	328	126	.722
Jerrold Newland	Greenville	290	59	.831
Jerry Goodpasture	Hoover	257	28	.902
Michael Kernan	Ursuline	234	107	.686
Brian Kindell	Lebanon	225	41	.846
Scott Combs	Ladywood Catholic	205	25	.891
Bill Herman	Ashland	189	83	.695
Alison Heppe	Perry	151	69	.686
Melody Ward	Austintown-Fitch	115	120	.489
Sarah Schalnat	Kenton Ridge	94	41	.696
Bill Davis	Walsh-Jesuit	78	18	.813
Melissa Wilson	Neuqua Valley	59	38	.608
Ray Melewski	Canfield	38	16	.704
Ben Bolen	Hillsdale	31	21	.596
Aaron Alvelo	Bloom Carroll	29	3	.906
Ken Lugo	Columbia	29	5	.853
Jen Goff	Bishop Ready	21	32	.396
Elliot Thompson	Windham	20	6	.769
Shawn Watson	Maumee	18	9	.667
Serena Fenton	Loudonville	0	0	.000
	Springfield			.000
Totals		3,950	1,194	.768



Wendy's Top Ten

<u>Wins</u>		<u>Losses</u>		<u>Winning Pct.</u> (Min. 6 games)	
Hillsdale	25	Ashland	33	Hueytown (AL)	1.000 6-0
Tallmadge	25	Colonel Crawford	27	Carl Sandburg (IL)	.909 10-1
Loudonville	24	Hillsdale	24	Springfield (Akron)	.833 15-3
N. Canton Hoover	23	Loudonville	22	DuPont Manuel (KY)	.833 5-1
Keystone	22	Keystone	16	Massillon Jackson	.833 5-1
Lake Park (Roselle, IL)	21	Archbishop Hoban	13	University School (FL)	.833 5-1
Archbishop Hoban	18	Tallmadge	12	Lake Park (IL)	.808 21-5
Oak Park & River Forest (IL)	15	Oak Park & River Forest (IL)	10	N. Canton Hoover	.767 23-7
Springfield (Akron, OH)	15	Ballard (Louisville, KY)	10	Walsh-Jesuit	.765 13-4
3 teams tied	14	Elyria	9	Tallmadge	.676 25-12

Looking ahead to 2015

Also at the Board of Director's January 8 meeting, the dates for the 2015 Classic were set. The 22nd annual tournament will be played April 16-18, 2015. Mark these dates on your calendar.





2014 Wendy's Spring Classic Red Pool



Hoover

Fri. - Main - 4:30 PM

Neuqua Valley

Loser

Winner

Game 15
Fri. - #4 - 8:15 PM

Game 13
Fri. - #2 - 8:05 PM

Loser

Winner

Walsh-Jesuit

Fri. - #1 - 4:30 PM

Austintown-Fitch

Game 27
Sat. - #2 - 12:35PM

Game 25
Sat. - Main - 12:30 PM

5th Place

Champion

Elyria

Fri. - #2 - 4:30 PM

Maumee

Loser

Winner

Game 16
Sat. - Main - 9:00 AM

Game 14
Fri. - #3 - 8:10 PM

Loser

Winner

Lebanon

Fri. - #3 - 4:30 PM

Springfield

7th Place

3rd Place

Loser - Game 15

Loser - Game 13

Game 28
Sat. - #3 - 12:40 PM

Game 26
Sat. - #1 - 12:30 PM

7th Place

3rd Place

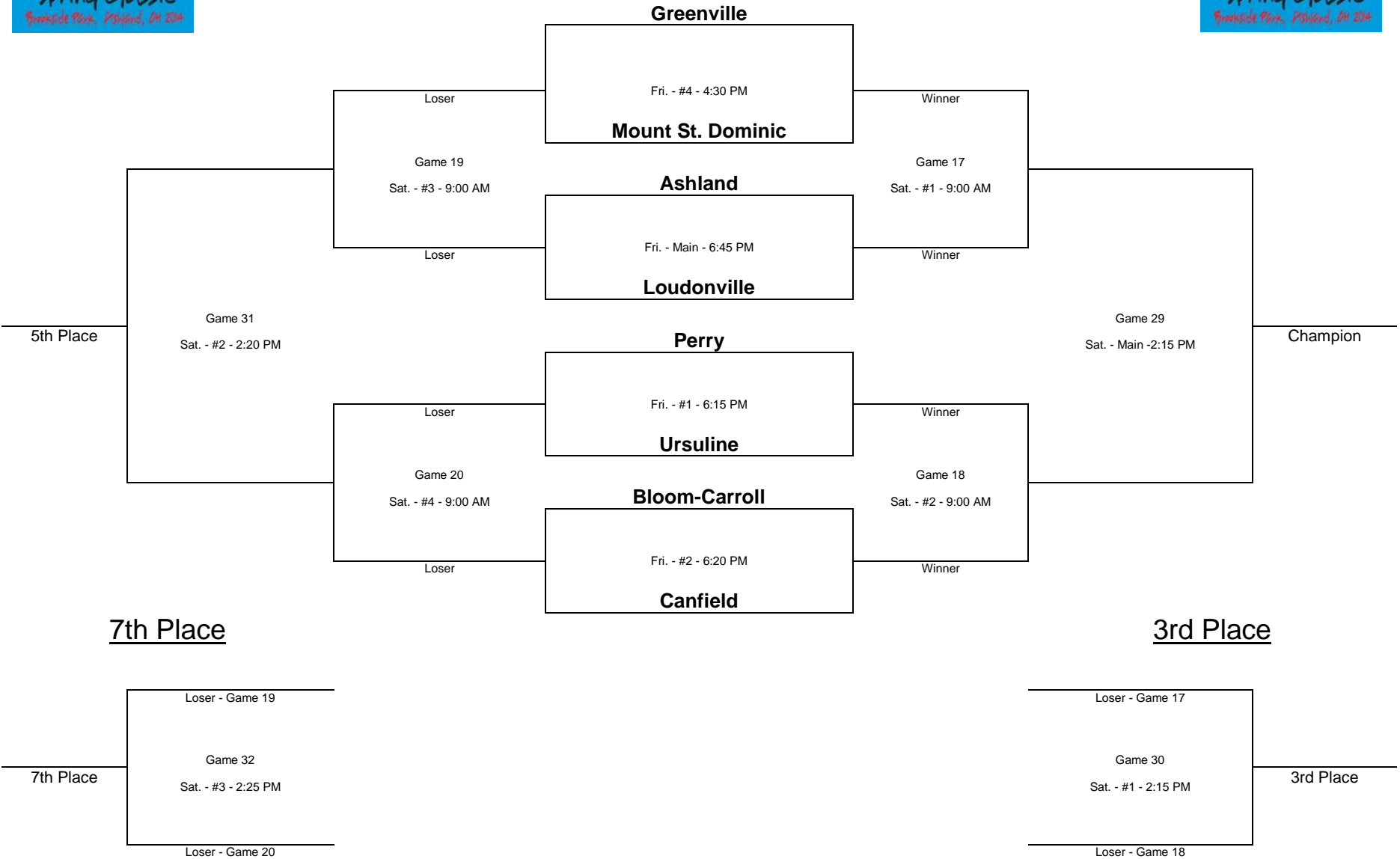
Loser - Game 16

Loser - Game 14





2014 Wendy's Spring Classic Black Pool





2014 Wendy's Spring Classic Yellow Pool

Kenton Ridge

Fri. - #3 - 6:25 PM

Lexington

Loser

Winner

Game 23

Sat. - #1 - 10:45 AM

Game 21

Sat. - Main - 10:45 AM

Loser

Winner

Ladywood

Fri. - #4 - 6:30 PM

Windham

Columbia

Fri. - Main - 8:30 PM

Hillsdale

Strasburg-Franklin

Fri. - #1 - 8:00 PM

Bishop Ready

Game 33

Sat. - Main - 4:00 PM

Champion

Game 35

Sat. - #2 - 4:10 PM

5th Place

Loser

Winner

Game 24

Sat. - #3 - 10:55 AM

Game 22

Sat. - #2 - 10:50 AM

Loser

Winner

7th Place

3rd Place

Loser - Game 23

Game 36

Sat. - #3 - 4:15 PM

7th Place

Loser - Game 24

Loser - Game 21

Game 34

Sat. - #1 - 4:00 PM

3rd Place

Loser - Game 22





2014 Wendy's Spring Classic Field Schedule



Main

Fri.	4:30	Hoover vs. Neuqua Valley
Fri.	6:45	Ashland vs. Loudonville
Fri.	8:30	Columbia vs. Hillsdale
Sat.	9:00	Game #16
Sat.	10:45	Game #21
Sat.	12:30	Red Pool Championship
Sat.	2:15	Black Pool Championship
Sat.	4:00	Yellow Pool Championship

Brookside West #1

Fri.	4:30	Walsh-Jesuit vs. Austintown Fitch
Fri.	6:15	Perry vs. Ursuline
Fri.	8:00	Strasburg-Franklin vs. Bishop Ready
Sat.	9:00	Game #17
Sat.	10:45	Game #23
Sat.	12:30	Red Pool 3 rd Place Game
Sat.	2:15	Black Pool 3 rd Place Game
Sat.	4:00	Yellow Pool 3 rd Place Game

Brookside West #2

Fri.	4:30	Elyria vs. Maumee
Fri.	6:20	Bloom-Carroll vs. Canfield
Fri.	8:05	Game #13

Sat.	9:00	Game #18
Sat.	10:50	Game #22
Sat.	12:35	Red Pool 5 th Place Game
Sat.	2:20	Black Bracket 5 th Place Game
Sat.	4:05	Red Pool 5 th Place Game

Brookside West #3

Fri.	4:30	Lebanon vs. Springfield
Fri.	6:25	Kenton Ridge vs. Lexington
Fri.	8:10	Game #14
Sat.	9:00	Game #19
Sat.	10:55	Game #24
Sat.	12:40	Red Pool 7 th Place Game
Sat.	2:25	Black Pool 7 th Place Game
Sat.	4:10	Yellow Pool 7 th Place Game

Brookside West #4

Fri.	4:30	Greenville vs. Mount St. Dominic
Fri.	6:30	Ladywood vs. Windham
Fri.	8:15	Game #15
Sat.	9:00	Game #20



