



PROVISO WEST HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

Proviso West – Where Basketball is Best
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PROVISO TOURNEY LOADED AGAIN WITH TOP TEAMS

With the pre-season rankings released, the 2007 Proviso West Tournament looks to be one of the most competitive in the 47-year history of the annual event. Two teams are ranked among the Top 25 squads in the country by national publications as Whitney Young is rated as the nation's number 14 team in *The Sporting News* Pre-Season Poll and Marshall was picked number 24 in the country by *USA Today*. In addition, 12 different teams received pre-season recognition as being the among the top teams in the area.

Local newspapers have given the Proviso Christmas Classic high grades as eight different teams are ranked among the initial Top 20.

Proviso West Tournament Teams in the *Chicago Sun-Times* Rankings include Young (#1); Marshall (4); Homewood-Flossmoor (5); Evanston (9); New Trier (14); Saint Joseph (18) and Von Steuben (20).

The *Chicago Tribune* ranked Whitney Young (1); Marshall (3); Homewood-Flossmoor (6); Evanston (7); New Trier (10); Saint Joseph (12); Von Steuben (15) and Proviso East (20) all in their pre-season Top Twenty.

The Illinois Prep Bullseye, which releases statewide rankings, picked an incredible four Proviso Tournament teams of their state's top six teams in their annual pre-season choices: Young (1); Marshall (2); Homewood-Flossmoor (4) and New Trier (6). The publication also pegged eight other teams in statewide recognition: Saint Joseph (11); Evanston (15); Von Steuben (21); Proviso West (22); Fenwick (24); Proviso East (27); Hillcrest (35) and Morton (44).

And how is good is the field top to bottom? Well, one of the Chicagoland newspapers rated 15 of the 16 team field to finish either first or second in their respective conference. There's little doubt that once again this year's tournament will live up to the motto that **Proviso West is Where Basketball Is Best!**

FIRST DAY TICKET SALES REACH RECORD NUMBERS

A first day record number of Season Ticket Books were purchased both on-line and in person when advanced ticket sales went public on November 13. More tickets were purchased on the first day then in any entire pre-sale period in tournament history. Advanced tickets can continue to be purchased over the internet at www.pwhoops.com/tickets2007.htm and in the Proviso West Business Office through December 20, Good seats still remain – get yours today!

THREE PERSON OFFICIATING TURNS 25 AT PROVISO

Always on the cutting edge of being a leader in the industry, this year marks the 25th year of the implementation of three-person officiating at the Proviso West Holiday Tournament. The first ever high school game with three officials was played in the 1983 Proviso West Tournament, as both semi-finals and the championship game employed the then pioneer trio format. Ron Olesiak, Richard Reels and Ruben Norris made up that first ever three person crew. The NBA and NCAA went to the three person officials system during the 1978-79 season, and the Illinois High School adopted the three-person format in 1998 at its state tournament.

The Proviso West Tournament has always been considered a leader in the officiating community as a record 82 floor officials have worked at Proviso West and the state tournament. This year 84 different officials will have assignments at Proviso West making it the biggest corps of officials for any tournament in the country.

The Holiday Tournament has had officials that presently work the NBA, the NFL and have worked in the Final Four. A complete historical listing can be found on the tournament website at www.pwhoops.officials.htm.

HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT MEDIA NIGHT SET FOR DECEMBER 3

Catch all the action of the release of the tournament pairings for the 47th Annual Proviso West Holiday Tournament live on the official website www.pwhoops.com on the evening of Monday, December 3. Tournament brackets will be available for download on the website that night at: www.pwhoops.com/bracket2007.pdf.

TEAM PAGES NOW WITH UPDATED INFORMATION

Along with rosters, schedules, results and pictures of the sixteen participating schools, the popular Proviso West Holiday Tournament website – www.pwhoops.com now has added historical information for each team. The new sections include records against every current opponent, all-time coaching records, listings of past All-Tournament Team players and scores from every game ever played. Team data can be found at www.pwhoops.com/team.htm. The tournament website has over half million hits since last December.

HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT QUIZ: MAKING A COMEBACK

Eighty-six different schools have played in the Proviso West Tournament. Some teams have long consecutive stretches of participation, such as Proviso West (who has played in all 46 previous events) and Proviso East (that has a 44-year streak going into 2007) while others returned to the annual Christmas Classic after leaving for short stretches. What three schools returned to the Proviso West Tournament after taking off the longest period of time between appearances?

The answer to this question can be found on our website at: pwhoops.com/quiz.htm.