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Friday, March 14, 2008

Sales are brisk for NCAA hoops at Ford Field

Tim Twentyman / The Detroit News

DETROIT -- Start the countdown. It's exactly two weeks until "March Madness" lands in Detroit.

Ford Field and Detroit Mercy are hosting the NCAA men's basketball Midwest Regional games March 28 and 30. The regional games will be the first played in the city of Detroit.

To date, more than 49,000 tickets have been sold. Estimated capacity at Ford Field will be around 72,800.

Advertisement

"We've sold more than 49,000 tickets and we don't even know which teams are going to be here. That says a lot about the basketball fans in the Detroit area," said Mark Engel, Detroit Mercy sports information director. "Selling out will really depend on which teams make it here. If we get a Midwest team that travels well, then there's a good chance. If we get teams from the four corners of the country, then maybe not.

"We are at the mercy of the selection committee and teams making it here."

The games at Ford Field are expected to shatter the attendance record for an NCAA Regional. The record for a regional game is 42,519, which was set at the Michigan State-Kentucky game in St. Louis' Trans World Dome in 1999. The attendance record for a tournament game is 64,959, set at the Indiana-Syracuse 1987 title game at the Superdome in New Orleans.

Ford Field also will host the 2009 men's Final Four and the 2010 men's hockey Frozen Four.

You can reach Tim Twentyman at ttwentyman@detnews.com

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More information

NCAA Regionals

When: Sweet 16 -- March 28; Elite 8 -- March 30
Tickets: Tickets can be purchased at the Ford Field ticket office, by phone at (248) 645-6666 or online at www.ticketmaster.com. Prices range from \$45-150 plus service and facility fees. Ticket price includes two games Friday, March 28, and one game Sunday, March 30, for a total of two tickets for three games.

In the Blogs...

Daniel Howes' Blog



Daniel Howes: The makeover of Delphi Corp., a former ward of General Motors, hasn't been easy. There was the long, ugly fight with the United Auto Workers; the repeated smackdowns over ... [Continued](#)

Raging Bullard

George Bullard: Chatting on Channel 4's "Flashpoint" today, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy says she's ready to go on a decision re Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. Her office is crossing ... [Continued](#)



Going Home



Michael Happy: As the days, hours, minutes tick down to March 29 and 30, it's become obvious to me that we're not going to reach everybody who might want to attend the Holy Name ... [Continued](#)

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Eastern dispatches Ball St. - 03/13/2008

Diver displays heart in return - 03/13/2008

Big Ten Tournament court report - 03/12/2008

Ramsey: MAC tourney will be wide-open affair - 03/12/2008

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Special Reports



Special section: Madonna, from Michigan to the Hall of Fame

Madonna might belong to the world now, but we had her first in Michigan. On March 10, 2008 -- 25 years after the release of her first album -- our own Material Girl will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. - Feb. 28, 2008

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