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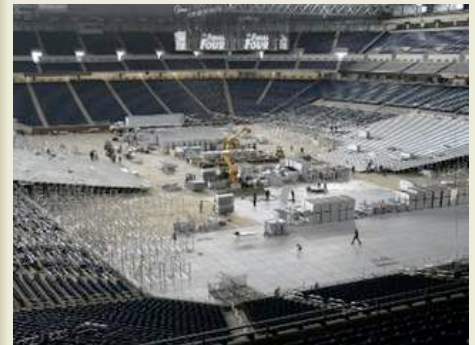
14 to know before Final Four invades Detroit

BY MARK SNYDER • FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER • MARCH 29, 2009

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Standing tall

The basketball court will be in the center of Ford Field, elevated 29 inches off the floor. It will be surrounded by a few feet of carpeted apron, where the two opposing coaches will either stand or have the option of using a stool, with steps leading down to their benches at ground level.



Photos by DIANE WEISS/Detroit Free Press

Destination Detroit: Ford Field workers and employees of Connor Sports Flooring Company of Amasa, Mich., install the court Thursday. It consists of 225 4-by-8-foot panels.



On the floor

Fan seating will begin behind the benches and gradually incline on risers that will go as high as the first 20-25 rows of the lower bowl. Fans higher than that will already have unobstructed views from their seats.

On the floor

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Student bodies

There will be a significant student fan presence near the court for the first time in recent memory. About 3,000 students will be admitted at the discounted price of \$7 per ticket to help create a more intimate and lively atmosphere in the end zones, counteracting the massive building and open space.

The big(gest) house?

Ford Field should have no problem setting the NCAA Tournament attendance record, surpassing the 64,959 who attended the 1997 game at the Superdome in New Orleans. It's not likely to surpass Ford Field's overall college basketball attendance record, set when 78,129 came to the arena in 2003 for the "Basketbowl" regular-season game between Michigan State and Kentucky. Seating capacity for the Final Four games is projected to be about 70,000.

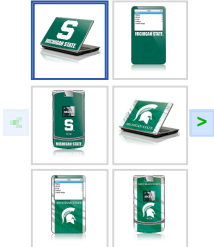
Camera

Because of the elevated court and unobstructed views, CBS will be able to get shots never before seen at an NCAA Tournament game. A "slash camera," which is a robotic slow-motion camera, will be on

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corners by the team benches. And there will be more low-angle replays from a camera at center court near the CBS announcing crew. The announcers will be on their own mini-platform on a riser 12 to 18 inches high. CBS will use 17 cameras overall. The "Jib" camera, which captured the iconic sweeping overhead shot of Joakim Noah after Florida's 2006 national title, will also be used.

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tekpds wrote:

People, in honor of MSU success, buy a MSU Screaming fan and I'll send you two, Just go to www.thescreamingfan.com and lets storm Ford field with support for the home team!

03/31/2009 12:23:25 a.m. EDT

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dracko19 wrote:

Replying to mccoymadness:

how can MSU students get one of the 3000 tickets offered??

Im sure some will show up on ebay. you might have to pay a slight premium over the \$7 charge though. Just call your dad. I'm sure he'll understand why you need to borrow \$1,000.

03/30/2009 3:35:17 p.m. EDT

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springball99 wrote:

you have to be a season ticket holder to get the student tickets.

03/30/2009 9:50:36 a.m. EDT

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mailsuedu wrote:

i wanna know also

03/29/2009 9:37:35 p.m. EDT

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Final Four floor pieced together

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