

For Immediate Release
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ESPN Announces Matchups for Third Annual 76 Classic; Seven of Eight Teams Participated in 2008-09 Postseason

[Download the 76 Classic logo here.](#)

ESPN Regional Television, Inc. (ERT), a subsidiary of ESPN, announced today the schedule of matchups for the 2009 76 Classic, to be held Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 26, 27 and 29, at the Anaheim (Calif.) Convention Center, adjacent to Disneyland. The third-year event will include 12 games in three days and will be telecast on ESPN2 and ESPNU.

The 76 Classic field includes eight teams: Butler, Clemson, Long Beach State, Minnesota, Portland, Texas A&M, UCLA and West Virginia. Each team will compete in one game per day, advancing through a bracket-tournament format.

In the first round of action Thursday, Nov. 26, West Virginia opens the 76 Classic against Long Beach State at 2 p.m. ET / 11 a.m. PT on ESPNU. The other three games will all be televised live on ESPN2, with Texas A&M taking on Clemson at 4:30 p.m. ET / 1:30 p.m. PT, Minnesota facing Butler at 8:30 p.m. ET / 5:30 p.m. PT, and Portland squaring off against UCLA at 10:30 p.m. ET / 7:30 p.m. PT.

Seven of the eight teams reached the postseason in 2008-09, including six in the NCAA Tournament: UCLA and Texas A&M advanced to the second round, while Butler, Clemson, Minnesota and West Virginia were also in the field. No eight-team, regular-season tournament has ever had more than seven postseason teams from the previous year. The 2008 Old Spice Classic also had seven; the EA Sports Maui Invitational has had seven postseason teams five times, most recently in 2004.

The two teams that remain undefeated throughout the tournament will face off in a championship match Sunday, Nov. 29, at 10 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. PT on ESPN2. Complete matchups are listed below.

The Big West Conference again will serve as the host for the 76 Classic at the 7,800-seat Anaheim Convention Center, which has served the conference for the past eight years as the site of its postseason tournament.

The inaugural 76 Classic (then called the Anaheim Classic) was played in 2007, with USC defeating Southern Illinois in the championship game. In 2008, Wake Forest captured the title by taking down Baylor in the championship game.

Tickets to the 2009 76 Classic will go on sale in early September, at www.Ticketmaster.com or by calling (714) 704-2000. Packages include all 12 games for \$90 or single-session tickets for \$20. Special travel package information can be found at www.GETTRAVEL.com.

Additional information can be found on the 76 Classic Web site at www.76classic.com. For more information on Disneyland Resort, visit www.disneyland.com.

ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPNU Tournament Schedule

(Home team listed second; Long Beach State will be home team in each of its games)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (ET/PT)</u>	<u>Matchup</u>	<u>Network</u>
Thu, Nov 26	2 p.m. / 11 a.m.	West Virginia vs. Long Beach State (Game 1)	ESPNU
	4:30 p.m. / 1:30 p.m.	Texas A&M vs. Clemson (Game 2)	ESPN2
	8:30 p.m. / 5:30 p.m.	Minnesota vs. Butler (Game 3)	ESPN2
	10:30 p.m. / 7:30 p.m.	UCLA vs. Portland (Game 4)	ESPN2
Fri, Nov 27	2:30 p.m. / 11:30 a.m.	Game 5	ESPN
	5 p.m. / 2 p.m.	Game 6	ESPNU

	9:30 p.m. / 6:30 p.m.	Game 7	ESPNU
	11:30 p.m. / 8:30 p.m.	Game 8	ESPNU
Sun, Nov 29	2:30 p.m. / 11:30 a.m.	Game 9	ESPNU
	5 p.m. / 2 p.m.	Game 10	ESPN2
	7:30 p.m. / 4:30 p.m.	Game 11	ESPNU
	10 p.m. / 7 p.m.	Game 12 (Championship Game)	ESPN2

ESPN Regional Television/Event Ownership

The nation's largest syndicator of collegiate sports programming, [ESPN Regional Television \(ERT\)](#) annually produces more than 1,000 telecasts of sporting events. Programming includes football, basketball, NCAA events, golf and NHRA events accounting for more than 2,200 live and/or original hours of programming. In addition to event ownership, ERT is the production headquarters for [ESPNU](#), the 24-hour college sports network; syndication rights-holder and producer of national, regional and local shows for college conferences (e.g. – [SEC](#), [BIG EAST](#), [Big 12](#), [Mid-American](#), [Sun Belt](#), [WAC](#)).

ESPN Regional Television markets and/or owns several sporting events, including collegiate football events: the [Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl](#) (Fort Worth, Texas); [MAACO Bowl Las Vegas](#); [New Mexico Bowl](#) (Albuquerque); [Papajohns.com Bowl](#) (Birmingham, Ala.); [Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl](#) (Honolulu); [St. Petersburg Bowl](#); the [MEAC/SWAC Challenge](#) presented by Disney (Orlando, Fla.); and [The Home Depot ESPNU College Football Awards](#); collegiate basketball events: the [76 Classic](#) (Anaheim, Calif.); [Charleston Classic](#) (S.C.); [ESPNU Road to the Championship](#) (Women; San Antonio); [Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic](#) (Honolulu); [Old Spice Classic](#) (Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Fla.); [O'Reilly Auto Parts Puerto Rico Tip-Off](#) (San Juan); [SEC/BIG EAST Invitational](#); All-College Classic (Oklahoma City) and [ESPNU BracketBusters](#); as well as the [ESPN National Golf Challenge presented by Callaway](#). For more information, visit [ESPNPlus.com](#).

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