

New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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NYSPHSAA AWARDS WRESTLING STATE TOURNAMENT TO TIMES UNION CENTER IN ALBANY THROUGH 2012

LATHAM, NY - The New York State Public High School Athletic Association has announced its wrestling state tournament will be conducted at the Times Union Center in Albany from 2009 through 2012. The announcement comes after NYSPHSAA's wrestling state committee unanimously voted in favor of a bid submitted by the Times Union Center in October.

The event returns to the Times Union Center February 27-28, 2009 after being held at the Blue Cross Arena in Rochester in March 2008 and in Albany in 2007. In the midst of bringing the wrestling tournament back to Albany, NYSPHSAA moved its tournament one week earlier to accommodate the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference opting to host its postseason tournament at the Times Union Center around the weekend of March 7-8.

"Since 2005, not only has the Times Union Center proved to be a reliable and appropriate venue for our wrestling tournament, but the City of Albany has been a viable, central location for this event," said NYSPHSAA Executive Director Nina Van Erk. "We are excited to return to Albany and look forward to conducting a great event there for the next four years."

According to the Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the wrestling state tournament annually pumps over \$1.2 million into the Capital Region economy and in 2007 it was the second largest sporting event in Albany County.

The 47th Annual NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Tournament will return to the Times Union Center in 2009 for the third time since 2005. The event saw a record attendance of 17,323 in 2005 (now ranks second) in Albany, and an additional 15,034 in the arena in 2007 despite poor weather. Previous venues include the Onondaga County War Memorial (1974-2003), University at Buffalo (2004), and Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale (2006).

"SMG and our staff are happy to receive this award to host the NYSPHSAA State Wrestling Championships through 2012," said Bob Belber, General Manager of the Times Union Center. "This is an excellent event that generates economic spending in the market, fills hotel rooms and restaurants and creates sales tax for the state and county. Being centrally located in New York State, Albany is easy to get to for families who want to see their children compete in the state championships."

"We are honored that the NYS Public High School Athletic Association has chosen Albany as the home of the New York State Wrestling Championships over the next four years. We are excited to welcome athletes, fans and families to our Capital City and showcase the treasures that Albany has to offer sports fans," said Michele Vennard, CEO & President of the Convention Bureau.

More tournament information can be obtained by visiting www.nysphsaawrestling.com.

NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Championship Dates at Times Union Center-Albany, NY

2009 – February 27-28

2010 – February 26-27

2011 – February 25-26

2012 – February 24-25

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