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SFIC Basketball Festival Features Outstanding High School Basketball

NEWARK, NJ – Four of the top high schools teams in the state of New Jersey and in the United States are featured in four games that highlight the seventh annual Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children Basketball Festival to be played on Sunday, January 10th at Kean University.

The four games, which are presented by *The Star Ledger* and Verizon FIOS, are St. Benedict's Prep vs. Our Savior New American, Saint Anthony High School vs. NIA Prep, St. Patrick High School vs. Trenton Catholic and finally Saint Peter's Prep vs. Hudson Catholic. The first game tips off at 12:15 pm.

St. Patrick, coached by Kevin Boyle, and Saint Anthony, coached by Bob Hurley, have battled to be the state's top high school team for most of the past two decades. St. Benedict's, under Danny Hurley, has perennially been one of the top prep teams in the country. The newcomer to the group is Saint Peter's Prep, which returns one of its most talented teams in the parochial ranks.

“With the tough economy, we wanted to put together an exciting day of high school basketball at an affordable price,” explained Bill Fitzpatrick, the Director of the SFIC Basketball Festival. “We have an unbelievable group of future Division I players that will play in the four games. I know fans will receive a great deal with four exciting games for the \$10 admission price for adults and \$5 for students.”

The festival also features three coaches with national reputations in Bob and Danny Hurley and Kevin Boyle. Mike Kelly, the coach of Saint Peter's Prep, has also been building a reputation as one of the top coaches in the state.

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“We certainly have to thank the schools, administrators, coaches and players for participating in the Basketball Festival,” explained Gerry O’Connor, the Executive Director of the SFIC. “The Scholarship Fund is able to help fund scholarships for thousands of youngsters with the generosity of our many supporters and our basketball program has become a strong event for us. It will be a great day of high school basketball for a worthy cause. And, of course, Kean University is a great venue for top notch high school basketball.”

A number of the games of the SFIC Basketball Festival will be broadcast by Verizon FIOS and The Star Ledger on cable television and www.NJ.com as part of their high school sports package.

For additional information or to purchase tickets, fans can call the SFIC office at (973) 497-4279 or log onto www.SFIChoops.com.