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MEN'S BASKETBALL

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Men's Basketball To Open Season At 2003 BCA Classic In Cincinnati

Eight-team tournament to be held November 15-17, 2003, at Xavier's Cintas Center

July 10, 2003

Chicago, Ill. - The UIC men's basketball team will be one of eight schools opening the 2003-04 season at the Black Coaches Association (BCA) Classic.

Xavier University, in Cincinnati, Ohio, will host the tournament on November 15-17, 2003, at the Cintas Center.

The Flames, who went 21-9 last season and return five senior starters to the lineup, will join 2003 NCAA Tournament participants Xavier and San Diego, as well as Ohio, UC Irvine, Mercer, Oakland and Coppin State at the event.

Official match-ups and game times will be announced in the near future.

"We are really excited to have this opportunity to work with the eight programs participating in this year's Classic," said Floyd Keith, Executive Director of the BCA.

Since it began in 1994, the BCA Classic has averaged 14,800 college basketball fans per night over its first eight years (no event was held in 2002), including a tournament-record attendance of 32,250 in 1996. Past BCA Classic games have featured teams from the country's top conferences - the SEC (Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina & Arkansas), the ACC (Maryland, Wake Forest & Clemson), the Big 12 (Kansas), the Big East (UConn, Villanova & Georgetown), the Pac-10 (Cal, Arizona & USC) and the Big Ten (Ohio State, Indiana, Minnesota & Purdue).

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The UIC men's basketball team will open the 2003-04 season at the BCA Classic in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Black Coaches Association is a nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to foster the growth and development of minorities at all levels of sport both nationally and internationally. The BCA is committed to creating a positive, enlightened environment and common ground where issues can be examined closely, debated sincerely and resolved honestly. Throughout the BCA's 15-year history, the organization has been at the forefront of the effort to enhance the employment opportunities and professional development of the minority professional.

The remainder of the 2003-04 UIC men's basketball schedule will be released as soon as it become available.

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