



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 14, 2016

CONTACT:
Machell Phelps (607) 756-1864

**CRSC & CENTRAL WESTERN AAU ADD COLLEGE SHOWCASE GAME TO THE ANNUAL
CORTLAND SHOOTOUT BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

CORTLAND - The Cortland Regional Sports Council and Central Western AAU are partnering once again to host the 2016 Cortland Shootout. This year marks the twelfth year of the AAU sanctioned Basketball Tournament. In an effort to keep the tournament attractive to out of town teams, a Friday night College Showcase game will take place for 11th & 12th grade players in the tournament.

Kicking off with the showcase games on Friday night March 18th and for two more days this weekend - March 19th and 20th, 123 teams will be in Cortland competing for their age group title. Several local teams including 2 from the Cortland Basketball Club will be in the tournament field.

“The College Showcase Games will be held at Corey Gym on SUNY Cortland’s campus. Girls tip off at 6:00pm and Boys at 8:00pm.” said tournament director, Rich Hill. Coaches from Division II & III plus Junior College coaches have been invited to attend.

Tournament games will be contested at several Cortland area locations: Park Center/Corey Gym and Lusk Field house at SUNY Cortland, the Cortland Junior-Senior High School, TC3’s Sports Complex and the County Office Building Gym. Age groups from under 11 to under 17 will be playing.

“Part of what defines an event’s success is its return. In this case, not only is the tournament back in Cortland, but so are many of the teams from previous years. Teams from Canada, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York will be here to participate in our tournament. This tells me that we’re doing something right,” said Machell Phelps, executive director of the CRSC. “Another overwhelming measure of success is the growth in registrations for the tournament. We started with 36 teams in 2005 and realized we needed to cap entries around 120 teams in order to put on a quality event. The tournament reaches capacity before the deadline each year.”

“Beyond the competition and fun for the participating teams, there is also an economic benefit for the Cortland community,” Phelps said. “With this many teams in town for two days, area hotels, restaurants, gas stations and stores are bound to benefit.”

The Cortland Regional Sports Council, which took over running the Empire State Senior Games and brought the NYSPHSAA Girls State Soccer Championships to Cortland, invites the community to come out and support the tournament. There is a nominal entry fee for adults. Age group finals will take place Sunday afternoon, starting around 1:00pm. Later this week, you can view the complete schedule at www.centralwestern.org or www.cortlandsports.recdesk.com.

