

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OFFICIAL LOGO RELEASED FOR 2009 USCAA NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

UNIONTOWN, Pa. – “Thunder on the Three Rivers” will be the theme for the 2009 USCAA National Basketball Championships, according to Vince Capozzi, tournament chairman and the athletic director at primary host site Penn State Fayette, the Eberly Campus.

The tournament is being hosted March 3-7 by the western schools of the Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference. Penn State Fayette will be the primary host site for the tournament’s 49 games. Penn State Greater Allegheny will serve as the secondary site of tournament competition. Both schools are located in the heart of Western Pennsylvania and less than an hour from Pittsburgh.



“We wanted to tie the tournament in with Western Pennsylvania and that includes the City of Pittsburgh, which is winding down its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration,” Capozzi explained. “The heart of Pittsburgh is what’s known as the Golden Triangle. It is there that the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers converge to form the Ohio River.”

The Monongahela River flows through McKeesport and also finds its banks in Brownsville, some 10 miles south of Uniontown.

“We thought that with the game sites being close to the rivers, and having the best of the USCAA here, there certainly will be some thunder reverberating on the rivers that will carry all the way to Pittsburgh,” Capozzi said.

The river’s influence on the region is reflected in the tournament logo. The artwork features the USCAA logo resting on a black and white basketball. Underneath are a series of yellow lines in varying lengths that form a “Golden Triangle” in reference to the city of Pittsburgh and the rivers that converge there.

The tournament dates are arched over the logo’s top, while a lower arch proclaims that the tournament will be for the national championship. The cities where the schools are located – Uniontown (Penn State Fayette) and McKeesport (Penn State Greater Allegheny) sit on the triangle’s wings.

The tournament’s official colors are black and gold and have multiple symbolisms. The gold reflects the Golden Triangle – a strategic location sought by armies dating back to the French and Indian War. The color black alludes to the region’s strong ties with the coal industry – once the lifeblood of the region

that produced the coal that fired Pittsburgh's great steel mills. Additionally, the black and gold color combination has become synonymous with sports excellence – they are the colors of Pittsburgh's three major sports teams, the Steelers, Pirates and Penguins.

"We really think that the tournament logo and colors are a nice representation of our region," Capozzi said. "It should look very good in a variety of settings, from tournament awards to souvenirs and signs."

"In the coming weeks, we'll have several more exciting announcements concerning the tournament as we look to build excitement toward that first week in March when the nation comes to Western Pennsylvania."