

# THE INDEX-JOURNAL

Sports

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## 14 Local Teams Slated For Bearcat Classic

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This year's Bearcat Christmas Classic will have even more of a local flavor than usual. Fourteen area teams will take part in the 16-team event, which is scheduled to tip off at 10 a.m. Dec. 19 at Lander University's Finis Horne Arena.

The 16th annual tournament, which is under the direction of Lander University assistant athletic director Chipper Bagwell, includes an eight-team boys and girls bracket. "I think it's a good field," Bagwell said. "I'm not real familiar with the strongest teams, but I feel good about the event because there's a lot of local teams. "We hope with so many local teams we will be able to draw a lot of local fans and have some really good competition."

The only teams from outside the Lakelands will be Liberty's boys and girls teams, but the Red Devils still have a local connection. Liberty's boys coach, John Schumpert, is a graduate of Lander. The first and second rounds, along with a consolation round, will be Dec. 19-20. The finals will take place Dec. 22.

Admission is \$5 per day.

Ninety Six and Ware Shoals girls basketball teams will open the event at 10 a.m. Dec. 19 followed by the Ninety Six boys against Ware Shoals at 11:30 a.m. Abbeville's girls basketball team will follow 1p.m. against Calhoun Falls and Saluda and Abbeville's boys basketball teams will play at 2:30 p.m.

At 4 p.m., the Greenwood girls will take on Saluda and the Emerald girls will face Liberty at 5:30 p.m. The Liberty boys will face Greenwood at 7 p.m. and the final game of the session will feature the Emerald boys against McCormick at 8:30 p.m. "Emerald is the host team, so we tried to put them into the prime time game and that'll help us out there, I think," Bagwell said. "Also, some students don't get out of school on Friday until noon, so that affected the scheduling."

On Dec. 20, the loser's bracket games for the girls tournament are at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The boys loser's bracket games will take place at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The winner's bracket games in the boys and girls tournaments will follow the consolation games.

The girls final will be played at 7 p.m. Dec. 22 with the boys final at 8 p.m. Greenwood is the defending champion in the girls tournament after defeating Emerald, while Abbeville won the boys tournament in 2007 when it defeated Ninety Six.