



June 28, 2011

To: All Area Media

From: Bruce Brown

RE: 2011 "Hoops 4 Healing" Games

"HOOPS 4 HEALING" BASKETBALL CLASSIC PLANS FOR THIRTEENTH ANNUAL EVENT

The 13th Annual "Hoops 4 Healing" Basketball Classic will be held December 2nd and 3rd and December 10th in Wooster and Canton, Ohio, respectively. Malone University will start the two-week event by hosting four games on Friday (December 2) and Saturday (December 3) among the men's teams from Walsh University, OSU-Lima, Ohio Christian College along with Malone.

On Saturday (also on December 3), Wooster High School will host the women's high school games. Participating in the 2011 event will be the women's teams from Orrville, Medina Buckeye, Lake, Northwestern, Smithville, and Wooster High Schools.

The men's high school segment of the Classic will be held this year at Walsh University's Alumni Gym on Saturday, December 10th. Participating teams that day will include the Walsh men's and women's teams, each taking on their counterparts from Fisher College out of Massachusetts. The high school boys' teams participating will be Dover, Manchester, Shaker Heights, Akron Garfield, Streetsboro and Lake.

The event at Walsh will add up to a "Hoops-Fest" as the day will be packed with basketball entertainment for the entire family. Starting at Noon on Saturday, December 10th, a free youth basketball clinic will be conducted by the Walsh University men's team and coaches. Clinic participants will be able to purchase discounted tickets to the "Hoops 4 Healing" basketball games that day, also. The women's game will tip-off first following by the four additional contests. One game ticket will be good for all five games.

Bruce Brown, one of the directors of the "Hoops 4 Healing" Foundation, and athletic director at Lake High School, stated, "This will undoubtedly be our most exciting 'Hoops 4 Healing' event we've organized since the inception of the Classic. The back-to-back weekends of games will certainly make a great start to the basketball season for fans. The addition of the youth clinic on Saturday (December 10th) is a great piece made available by Coach Jeff Young and his basketball program at Walsh. And, the high school match-ups on both the girls' and the boys' sides may be the most competitive games we've arranged in the 13 years of our event. We believe it will be a wonderful eight days of roundball excitement as well as another important opportunity for us to stress the importance of liver disease research and organ donation."

The "Hoops 4 Healing" Classic started thirteen years ago as an opportunity to promote liver disease research and organ donation education. The event has grown into one of Ohio's best basketball showcases for high school basketball in this part of the state. Additionally, the teams and public are ***(more on next page.....)***

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feted at a Saturday meal along with event speakers hosted near their respective sites. The women’s high school teams will be served a brunch in Wooster on Saturday, December 3rd; the men’s high school teams will be served a brunch at the Barrette Center on the campus of Walsh University on Saturday, December 10th.

During the past few years, over \$235,000 has been donated from the “Hoops 4 Healing” Foundation events to the American Liver Foundation, LifeBanc of Ohio, the Mayo Clinic, the Cleveland Clinic and several other similar groups.

Along with the Basketball Classic, the “H4H” Foundation has previously sponsored a golf outing and a benefit auction/dinner which has also helped generate monies earmarked for liver disease research and organ donation support.

The concept of the “Hoops 4 Healing” Classic was generated by some unique circumstances. Three Canton-area basketball coaches, Hal Smith of Malone University, Steve Loy of Walsh University, and Bruce Brown of Uniontown Lake High School (presently director of athletics) were all diagnosed with a rare liver disease known as primary sclerosing cholangitis, or PSC. The acknowledgement of all three men’s illness became national news and received the attention of people from literally around the world. Adding to the coincidence was the diagnosis of another area man’s episode with PSC: Chuck Cooper, then director of athletics at Wooster High School, and yet another former basketball coach.

Of these four men, Smith and Cooper eventually had transplants (Hal Smith underwent a second liver transplant, along with a kidney transplant, in October of 2008). Steve Loy’s condition developed into cholangiocarcinoma (liver cancer); he succumbed to the disease in February of 2004. Bruce Brown continues to monitor his own condition.

The bond of a common illness, along with the four men’s shared relationship with the sport of basketball led to the eventual development of the “Hoops 4 Healing” basketball games thirteen years ago. The event took a one-year “road trip” to Indiana in 2005 as the high school games were played in the famous “Wigwam” Gymnasium at Anderson (IN) High School. The event has generated local and state-wide media exposure over the thirteen years of its existence.

Tickets for the “Hoops 4 Healing” Women’s Brunch in Wooster (December 3rd) and the Men’s Brunch (December 10th) will be available to the public. Each of the participating teams and coaches will be guests at each meal and the public is invited to attend. There will be a brief program prior to each basketball coach introducing their respective team. Both the Women’s and Men’s Brunches begin at 11:00 a.m. on their respective date.

Tickets for this year’s games will be available through each participating school. Pre-sale tickets for students are \$4; pre-sale tickets for adults are \$6; reserved seats are \$8. All general admission tickets at the door are \$7. One ticket is good for all games at the same venue. All profits from the event will go toward donations for liver disease research, organ donor education and other related causes.

**“HOOPS 4 HEALING” CLASSIC, 2011:
Schedule of Games**

Friday, December 2nd (Men’s college games at Osborne Hall, Malone University):

6:00 p.m.:	Walsh University vs. OSU-Lima
8:00 p.m.:	Malone University vs. Ohio Christian College

Saturday, December 3rd: (Women’s high school games at Wooster High School):

1:30 p.m.:	Orrville vs. Northwestern
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3:15 p.m.: Smithville vs. Medina Buckeye
5:00 p.m.: Lake vs. Wooster

(Men's College games at Osborne Hall, **Malone University**):

2:00 p.m.: Walsh vs. Ohio Christian College
4:00 p.m.: Malone vs. OSU-Lima

Saturday, December 10th: (all games at Alumni Gym, **Walsh University**)

Noon: Walsh University women vs. Fisher College women
2:00 p.m.: Walsh University men vs. Fisher College men
4:30 p.m.: Dover HS vs. Manchester HS
6:15 p.m.: Shaker Heights HS vs. Akron Garfield HS
8:00 p.m.: Streetsboro HS vs. Lake HS