

BIG ATLANTIC CLASSIC WELCOMES ESPN'S SETH GREENBERG FOR SUNDAY BANQUET

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BECKLEY, WV (NEWS RELEASE) - The Big Atlantic Classic will have an ESPN flavor next week, as Seth Greenberg will serve as the guest speaker for the annual Tip-Off Banquet on Sunday, January 28.

Greenberg has served as a college basketball analyst for ESPN since 2012, working as a color analyst, studio analyst, *SportsCenter* contributor and ESPN Radio and podcast host. Since 2014, Greenberg has been one of the hosts for the popular *ESPN College Gameday* show, which originates each Saturday from the location of that day's primetime game. Greenberg and the *GameDay* crew will be in Morgantown, W.Va., on Saturday, hosting the show at the WVU Coliseum prior to No. 7 West Virginia's meeting with Kentucky.

"We're excited to have Seth Greenberg join us for the start of another fantastic week," said West Virginia Governor Jim Justice, Chairman of The Big Atlantic Classic. "Many of the athletes that will be participating this week watch ESPN on a regular basis, and I know they will enjoy hearing a positive message from a face they see on their screens nearly every day."

Before joining the ESPN college basketball team, Greenberg spent 34 years as a coach, 22 as a head coach. He spent his first six seasons as a head coach at Long Beach State University, compiling a



record of 105-70 and taking the 49ers to two NCAA Tournaments. Greenberg then went to South Florida, where he posted a record of 108-100 over seven seasons.

The final nine seasons of his coaching career were spent at Virginia Tech. He posted a record of 170-123 with the Hokies, taking them to the NCAA Tournament in 2007 and landing in the NIT Tournament on five occasions.

"As a longtime college coach who spent years on the recruiting trail, Greenberg knows how to relate to high school athletes, and he knows what it takes for them to chase their dreams," said Justice. "I'm sure he'll have a great message for these athletes as they prepare for a week of competition."

Aside from his television work, Greenberg is active with a number of charitable causes, a trait the Big Atlantic Classic committee always tries to find in its guest speakers. He is a member of the American Heart Association, Coaches vs. Cancer, Boys and Girls Club and Great American Teach-in. In 2009, he was the winning coach in the inaugural "Chairman of the Boards" 3-on-3 charity basketball tournament to benefit Tuesday's Children in New York, a non-profit organization serving the needs of the 9/11 community. He also served as the chairman of the organizing committee of AllCoachesCare.com, an on-line sports auction that raised money for Habitat for Humanity following Hurricane Katrina.

Greenberg joins a long list of distinguished speakers at the Big Atlantic Classic. Past speakers include Larry Fitzgerald, Denny Hamlin, Sean Payton, Terry Bradshaw, Shaquille O'Neal, Charles Barkley, Cam Newton, Bill Walton, Larry Bird, Jerry West, Julius Erving and many others.

Tickets for Sunday's Tip-Off Banquet are available at the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center box office by calling 304-252-7361 and online at beckleyconventioncenter.com. Floor tickets are \$40 and include a steak dinner. Balcony seats, which don't include the meal, are available for \$7.50 for adults and \$2.50 for students. Doors will open Sunday at 11:15 a.m., with a VIP reception for Platinum Club members at 11:30. The dinner will begin at 12:30 p.m., with the speaker scheduled to begin at approximately 1:30.

The 29th Annual Big Atlantic Classic will run from Monday, Jan. 29 through Saturday, Feb. 3, and will include middle school and high school divisions, featuring top boys and girls teams from across West Virginia. All games will be played inside the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center.