

## LA Sports & Entertainment Commission (LASEC)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **2013 NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL WEST REGIONAL SET TO PLAY AT STAPLES CENTER**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA (September 22, 2009) – Pepperdine University will serve as the host school for the West Regional of the 2013 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, set to be held at STAPLES Center in downtown Los Angeles, the NCAA announced yesterday.

Pepperdine partnered with AEG/STAPLES Center and the LA Sports & Entertainment Commission to earn the bid. The West Regional dates are March 28 and 30, 2013.

“We are proud and honored to have been selected as the host of the 2013 NCAA West Regional,” Pepperdine Director of Athletics **John Watson** said. “It’s a tremendous opportunity to show off the city of Los Angeles to the visiting teams, their fans and the people watching on television around the country. It’s also a great chance for the people of Los Angeles to enjoy one of college sports’ premier events.”

The 2013 event will be the 75th anniversary of the NCAA Tournament. While Los Angeles has been a host city as part of 11 previous tournaments, the event will return here for the first time since 1994.

“It has been 15 years since an NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship has been in Los Angeles and we are thrilled that the premiere arena in the country, STAPLES Center, will play host to the West Regional in 2013,” said **Kathryn Schloessman**, President of the LA Sports & Entertainment Commission. “The LA Sports & Entertainment Commission is proud to partner with Pepperdine and AEG in hosting this great event and we look forward to showcasing Los Angeles as the sports and entertainment capital of the world.”

Los Angeles hosted the Final Four in 1968 and 1972 (UCLA won the title both years), the West Regional in 1966, 1969, 1973, 1976, 1984 and 1994 and early-round games in 1979, 1981 and 1988. UCLA also won two titles coming out of a Los Angeles-hosted West Regional in 1969 and 1973, as did Georgetown in 1984.

This will be the first NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament event at STAPLES Center, which opened in 1999. The Los Angeles Sports Arena hosted the two Final Fours and the 1994 NCAA West Regional, while UCLA’s Pauley Pavilion was the site on the other eight occasions.

LASEC is the official organization for the City of Los Angeles to seek, host, promote, and retain major sporting entertainment events that positively impact the local economy by attracting visitors to the city, giving them a reason to stay longer and return more frequently. LASEC is a private, nonprofit organization and an affiliate of LA INC. The Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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