



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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# SALEM TO HOST INAUGURAL ADAM WARD CLASSIC

*New Basketball Event Sponsored by Salem Parks and Rec.  
Set for February 2017*

Salem High School, the Western Virginia Basketball Officials Association and the City of Salem have joined forces to honor the memory of Adam Ward by establishing a Basketball Classic in his honor. The 2007 Salem High School alumnus, who graduated from Virginia Tech in 2011, played football at Salem High School, but was an avid fan and supporter of all types of athletic events his entire life.

"Adam Ward personified the true meaning of a student-athlete," says Grant Smythers, Salem High School Teacher and Tournament Co-Founder. "He was a huge sports fan who loved high school basketball and the Adam Ward Basketball Classic will highlight some of the best teams in the state of Virginia each season.

The event is being sponsored by the Salem Parks & Recreation Department and all proceeds from the event will go to The Adam Ward Scholarship Fund that is administered by the Salem Educational Foundation and Alumni Association. A dozen of the top boys and girls teams in the region will come together for one big day of basketball in the Salem High School gymnasium on February 4, 2017.

<b>11 a.m.</b>	<b>William Fleming vs. Martinsville (Girls)</b>
<b>12:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Roanoke Catholic vs. Carlisle</b>
<b>2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>William Fleming vs. Faith Christian</b>
<b>4:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Salem vs. Floyd County (Girls)</b>
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Salem vs. Martinsville</b>
<b>7:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Northside vs. Radford</b>

The cost for an all-day pass is just \$10 and tickets will be available the day of the event at Salem High School.

"The money generated from this event will provide scholarship opportunities for high school students who were deemed 'Adam-Like' during their high school careers." Says Smythers. "Salem High School is honored to host such a worthy event for such a special young man."

The Western Virginia Basketball Officials Association, which has a track record for supporting charitable causes, was instrumental in making this event a reality.

"This a great way to honor Adam Ward's memory, as well as all of the others who have been touched and affected by his passing and I think Adam would be pleased we are doing this through the game of basketball," says Commissioner Jerry Spangler.

To learn more about sponsorship scholarship opportunities or for more information contact Salem Parks and Recreation Department Assistant Supervisor Hank Luton at (540) 375-3054 or [hluton@salemva.gov](mailto:hluton@salemva.gov).