



**Oregon School Activities Association**  
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The following is a news release from the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA).

## OSAA Basketball Moves to the Rose Garden

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WILSONVILLE (June 29, 2009) – An agreement between the Rose Quarter and the Oregon School Activities Association will move Oregon's largest classification high school basketball championships to the Rose Garden. The OSAA executive board met via conference call last week and unanimously approved the site as the new home of the OSAA/U.S. Bank/Les Schwab Tires 6A Basketball State Championships.

The board also announced that for the first time in Oregon high school sports history, the largest classification of boys and girls teams will contest their state championships at the same site. The final eight 6A girls' teams will join eight 6A boys' teams March 10-13, 2010 at the Rose Garden.

"We're convinced that the 6A championships need to be in Portland," said OSAA executive director Tom Welter, noting that 39 of the 46 6A schools are located between Portland and Salem. "This move not only places these events in a NBA facility and the best basketball arena in the state, it also will result in considerable savings in travel costs and missed class time for the participating schools."

"We are very excited about bringing the tournament back to Portland, which creates an amazing opportunity for these young men and women to play in one of the country's pre-eminent arenas," stated Chris Oxley, General Manager of the Rose Quarter.

The 6A girls tournament has been held at the Chiles Center since 1983, but the University of Portland recently notified the OSAA that it is no longer in the University's best interests to continue hosting in future years.

McArthur Court in Eugene will continue to serve as an OSAA basketball venue, hosting the 5A boys and girls state championships. Combining genders at the association's two largest classifications brings 6A and 5A in line with 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A which have played simultaneous tournaments at the same site for years and in the case of 2A and 1A, for decades.

The OSAA moved what was then the 4A boys' tournament from Portland's Memorial Coliseum to McArthur Court in 2004 as part of a multi-sport, multi-year agreement with the University of Oregon. The Coliseum had hosted the tournament for 38 consecutive years beginning in 1966.

Welter credited the support and cooperation of the Portland Trail Blazers, Portland Arena Management and the City of Portland for making the Rose Garden agreement possible.

The Oregon School Activities Association is a private non-profit, board governed association comprised of 295 member high schools. The OSAA, sanctioned by the Oregon State Board of Education and a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations, annually sponsors 118 state championships in 19 sports and activities.