

Sep 16, 2013

## Cincinnati bids to host a dozen NCAA championship events

Cincinnati has turned in bids to host a dozen future NCAA championship events, with a bid coming soon to host NCAA men's basketball tournament games for the first time in more than two decades.

If successful, Cincinnati would host NCAA title events for the first time since 1997.

A Cincinnati collaborative group of university athletic directors, economic development groups and sports facilities bid to host Division I women's basketball and Division I men's hockey tournament games, among others. Cincinnati last hosted NCAA men's hockey tournament games in 1996, when the Frozen Four – Division I hockey's national championship event – was played at U.S. Bank Arena. That arena will be home to Midwest Regional hockey games next year. Cincinnati hosted the NCAA women's basketball Final Four in 1997. The NCAA played women's early-round tournament games at Xavier University's Cintas Center in 2010 and 2011.

A group called the Cincinnati Collegiate and Community Collaborative submitted the bids. That group consists of athletic directors from Miami University, the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University, as well as officials from the Greater Cincinnati Sports Corp., Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament and U.S. Bank Arena.

The collaborative group said it will submit a bid to host early-round NCAA men's basketball games this fall, as soon as the NCAA issues its request for proposals. Cincinnati last hosted NCAA men's basketball tournament games in 1992.

The bid process took a lot of work and participation from athletic directors, facilities and event operators and others, said Jackie Reau, chair of the Greater Cincinnati Sports Corp.

"It was an amazing collaborative process," she said. "But now we know what we have and it will streamline the process for future bids."

It was time for Cincinnati to get back to hosting championship NCAA events, Dan Lincoln, CEO of the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau, said in a news release.

"The Cincinnati area has had a long history of being the host for top-flight professional and collegiate sporting events," Lincoln said in the release.

The bid process is highly competitive, Reau said. The NCAA received more than 3,000 letters to bid on 550 events over four years.

Reau and Leslie Spencer, the Greater Cincinnati Sports Corp.'s executive

director, decided earlier this year to focus on attracting big college events. "The timing was impeccable," she said of the NCAA's bidding process coinciding with her group's study of Cincinnati's sports facilities. The full list of bids and years is:

**Division I Women's Basketball, first/second rounds 2015**

**Collegiate host:** Xavier University

**Location:** Cintas Center

**Division I Men's Hockey regionals 2016 and 2018**

**Collegiate host:** Miami University

**Location:** U.S. Bank Arena

**Division I Women's Volleyball finals 2017**

**Collegiate host:** Xavier University

**Location:** U.S. Bank Arena

**Division I Women's Basketball regionals 2015**

**Collegiate host:** Xavier University

**Location:** Cintas Center

**Division I Men's Women's Tennis finals 2015, 2017 and 2018**

**Collegiate hosts:** University of Cincinnati and Xavier University

**Location:** Lindner Family Tennis Center, home of the Western & Southern Open

**Division I Women's Lacrosse finals 2016, 2017 and 2018**

**Host:** University of Cincinnati

**Location:** Nippert Stadium, University of Cincinnati

**Division II Sports Festival**

Includes 2016 Division II Men's and Women's Tennis, Division II Men's and Women's Golf, Division II Women's Lacrosse, Division II Softball

**Collegiate host:** Great Midwest Athletic Conference

**Location:** Lindner Family Tennis Center; University of Cincinnati; College of Mount St. Joseph