



NJCAA Football National Championship set to return to Pittsburg

Pittsburg selected to host the 2018-2020 National Championship at Carnie Smith Stadium

The Crawford County Convention & Visitors Bureau, in partnership with Pittsburg State University, is proud to announce that Pittsburg has been chosen to host the 2018, 2019 and 2020 NJCAA Football National Championship. While a specific date has not been set for the game the championship will be held between November 29th to December 1st in 2018, December 5th to December 7th in 2019 and December 3rd to December 6th in 2020. The Crawford County CVB will work with Pittsburg State and the NJCAA to set dates in the near future. “We are extremely honored that the NJCAA has chosen us to be home of their football national championship,” said B.J. Harris, Executive Director of the Crawford County Convention & Visitors Bureau. “Pittsburg and Crawford County have built a reputation of being a great host community, our hospitality, great facilities and love of college football were certainly a major factors in this selection.”

This marks a return of the NJCAA Football National Championship to Pittsburg. Carnie Smith Stadium was the backdrop for the Championship in 2009 and 2010. The 2009 game, between Blinn (TX) College and Fort Scott Community College, ended with Blinn winning 31-26, behind a stellar performance by eventual Heisman Trophy winner and Carolina Panther Quarterback Cam Newton. In 2010, Navarro (TX) College defeated Butler County Community College 13-12. Pittsburg continued to host the Citizen’s Bank Bowl, which later changed to the Football Capital of Kansas Bowl, until 2013.

The current formula for determining a host site is based on national rankings and available bowl games. Typically, the top ranked team has played host to the number two team at a bowl game location near them. That process left many host sites waiting for the final rankings to come out before they knew if they were a possible national championship site. “Our past bowl games were always successful, but without the guarantee of a national championship it became difficult to plan and

sustain sponsorships,” noted B.J. Harris, Executive Director of the Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Now we know we are hosting national championship game and we can plan, attract sponsorships and execute an even better event.”

“The NJCAA is thrilled to have a dedicated site for its football championship game,” said NJCAA assistant executive director Mark Krug. “However, the NJCAA had to find the right partner and site in order to bring this event back to life after a near 30-year hiatus. The Crawford County CVB and Pittsburg State University displayed a true passion for the NJCAA and is committed to go the extra-mile for our teams and student-athletes. This is an exciting time for NJCAA football and we can’t wait to start working with everyone in Pittsburg on this great event.”

"PSU is excited to partner with the CVB and the city of Pittsburg to bring another national class event to campus and to the community," PSU Athletics Director Jim Johnson said. "Having the honor to host the NJCAA National Championship for three years beginning in 2018 at Carnie Smith Stadium will be an exciting opportunity, much like hosting indoor track & field national championships with the NJCAA and NCAA at the Robert W. Plaster Center has been the past two years. We're looking forward to helping showcase our facilities, our campus and the community on a national stage once again."

“To host an event of this size and stature will take a complete community effort,” Harris added, “I know Pittsburg is up to the challenge.”

For more information contact B.J. Harris at bjharris@visitcrawfordcounty.com or call 931-436-0455.