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Bison to play Texas, Iowa

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ARGO – Gene Taylor isn't done watching the North Dakota State men's basketball team in person after all. This time, he'll be on the other side.

The former NDSU athletic director, now the deputy athletic director at Iowa, will see his former program play the Hawkeyes on Nov. 17 in Iowa City, Iowa, as part of the 2K Classic benefitting the Wounded Warrior Project.

Taylor did not play a part in the matchup since it's part of the 2K Classic. "But it will be fun to have Dave Richman and his team play in Carver-Hawkeye Arena," he said.

NDSU released its schedule on Thursday with some interesting non-conference games. The Bison open at the University of Texas as part of the 2K Classic three days before the Iowa game. Texas finished 24-11 last year and reached the third round of the NCAA tournament on a team with no seniors. Iowa went 20-13 and was as high as 10th in the national polls.

“We’ll find out a lot about our young and inexperienced team pretty quickly,” said Richman, the head coach.

The Bison have two matchups with teams from the Mid-American Conference and three against Big Sky Conference programs. NDSU is at home against MAC foe Akron on Dec. 16 as part of a return game from the 2013 ESPN BracketBusters event and versus Kent State in the Don Haskins Sun Bowl Invitational in El Paso, Texas.

“Akron is a premier mid-major power team,” Richman said.

The University of North Dakota game, scheduled Dec. 13 at Scheels Arena, where NDSU will play all of its home games because of its arena renovation, is the first in a four-year contract.

The Bison will be at Montana and Montana State in the first year of home-and-home contracts that will have the Grizzlies and Bobcats returning to Fargo the following year.

Jeff Kolpack

Jeff Kolpack covers North Dakota State athletics, the Fargo Marathon and golf for The Forum. His blog can be accessed at www.bisonmedia.areavoices.com. On the radio, Kolpack & Izzo sports talk show runs from 9-11 a.m. every Saturday morning. April through August, the WDAY Golf Show with Jeff Kolpack runs from 8-9 a.m.

jkolpack@forumcomm.com