



**2011 NAIA Football
National Championship Game
Rome, Georgia**

OFFICIAL TRAVEL PARTY ITINERARY

Wednesday – December 14th

Teams arrive in Rome – Air travel available from Atlanta, Chattanooga and Birmingham – Both teams will be greeted by officials of the Host Committee.

Check-in - Host hotels will have rooms ready for check-in.

Team A- Holiday Inn Express

Team B- Country Inn & Suites

Note: The actual arrival times will not be determined until the final team selections are announced. Accordingly, this part of the schedule must remain somewhat flexible. Team A will be the higher seeded team and the home team. Team B will be the 2nd seeded team and the visitors. There will not be any scheduled entertainment this night for the teams. We are responsible for getting them to the hotels and providing dinner.

Practice Session – Practice facilities will be available for the teams at Darlington School and Shorter University. (Times will be determined on teams arrival schedules)

Thursday – December 15th

8:00- 9:45a.m.

Team Breakfast – Breakfast will be served at respective hotels.
(Official Travel Party)

10:00-

11:30a.m.

Champions of Character Activities – In accordance with the NAIA’s Champions of Character program, the players will attend four Rome / Floyd County schools to meet with the youth of this area. The Champions of Character program was developed to instill an understanding of character values in sport and provide practical tools for student-athletes, coaches and parents to use in modeling exemplary character traits. (Official Travel Party)

School #1- Garden Lakes

School #3- Midway

School #2- West Central

School #4- Darlington Lower

12:00 -

1:30p.m.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes – Champions of Character Luncheon– Presented by Chick-Fil-A Dwarf House & Fellowship of Christian Athletes. John Croyle will be the featured speaker for the luncheon. John was a former University of Alabama National Championship defensive end for the legendary Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant. At 19, John felt he had been given a gift to work with young people. His dream was to have the best children’s home in America. On the advice of Coach Bryant, John pursued that dream instead of a pro-football career. Over 1,800 children have called Big Oak Ranch their home since 1974. In addition, the ceremony will include the 2nd Annual High School Champion of Character Award presentation. Open to the Public-- *The Forum* Open To The Public * Tickets \$25*

2:00 -

5:30 p.m.

Practice Sessions / Team Meetings

TEAM A- Darlington

2:00-5:30p.m.

Coach determines team’s schedule meeting & practice schedule.

TEAM B- Shorter University

2:00-5:30p.m.

Coach determines team’s schedule meeting & practice schedule.

5:45-

6:15 p.m.

Championship Press Conference–Hosted by- *Darlington School, The City of Rome, Rome News-Tribune and radio station WLAQ. TV and press media from the Greater Rome area, Atlanta and Chattanooga will attend. – Yancey Suite, Huffman Center- Darlington Schools*

7:30 –
9:00p.m.

Welcome

Dinner – “Welcome to Rome” hosted by First Baptist Church of Rome (TEAM A) and First Methodist Church (TEAM B). (Official Travel Party)

Friday – December 16th

8:00 –
9:30a.m.

Team Breakfast – Breakfast will be served at respective hotels. (Official Travel Party)

9:00 –
11:30 a.m.

Team Meetings – Both teams will be provided with meeting rooms at Darlington/Shorter/ team hotels for both position meetings and film review.

10:30 a.m.
-3:00p.m.

Coaches Wives / Spouses Day – The coaches wives, spouses of school officials, NAIA dignitaries and their families will be invited to spend the day as the guests of the Host Committee enjoying the sights and sounds of the Rome/Floyd County area.

10:30- 12:30 **TBA**
12:30- 1:30 Lunch- **TBA**

11:45 a.m.

Team Lunch / Featured Speaker – Lunches will be served to both teams at the Shorter cafe prior to their Friday afternoon practices. Guest Speaker: Shorter University Head Men’s Basketball Coach Chad Warner. (Official Travel Party)

1:30 – 4:30

Practice Sessions / Stadium Walk-through – Both teams will hold a pre-game walk-through at Barron Stadium on Friday afternoon. Scheduled times are as follows:

TEAM A

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. – Walk-through at Barron Stadium

TEAM B

3:10 – 4:30 p.m. – Walk-through at Barron Stadium

6:30 p.m. **NAIA Banquet of Champions** -The Riverwalk, Shorter, and Berry Rooms will be made available for post-banquet meetings. --Open to Public- *The Forum* Open To The Public * Tickets \$30*

Saturday – December 18th

All Day **Rome News Tribune Souvenir Edition** – The Rome News-Tribune will publish a Game Day insert as a part of their Saturday circulation. Each participant will be provided a copy.

8-10:00 a.m. **Team Breakfast** – Breakfast will be served at respective hotels. (Official Travel Party)

12:00pm **Tailgating on the Levee Opens**

12:30pm **Team Lunch Served at Hotels**
Each team will be provided with a per diem and responsible for their own catering. (Official Travel Party)

1:15 pm **Teams depart for Barron Stadium**
1:15p.m. – TEAM A
2:00p.m. – TEAM B
(Times subject to change based on coaches)

2:30pm **Radio Remote and Tailgate Show (97.5 The Ridge)- Main Gate**

2:30pm **Gates Open**

4:30pm **Kick-Off – Barron Stadium** – Located in downtown Rome, at Historic Barron Stadium. Game Tickets \$25 (*Available to the Greater Rome Area at \$15 until 12/1/2011*)

Post-Game **NAIA National Football Championship Presentation** presented by Russell Athletics

Post-Game **NAIA National Football Championship Post-Game Press Conference** (Fitness Center)