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GSU's Mascot Search Comes Down to Just Four

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Contact: Michael Drakulich
Governors State University
Phone: (708) 534-8952
Fax: (708) 534-8399
Email: mdrakulich@govst.edu

For Immediate Release

GSU's mascot search comes down to just four It's the Mascot Match-up: The Final Showdown

University Park, Ill., April 4, 2014 – After receiving over 400 suggestions, Governors State University has narrowed its choices for an official mascot down to four: the Bengals, the Prairie Wolves, the Jaguars and the Gladiators.

The university is soliciting the help of current and prospective students, faculty, staff, alumni and the extended community once again for help in making the final choice.

The mascot will be the university's first. It is another achievement that accompanies other recent firsts, including the university's first freshman class and first student residence coming this July, expansion of recreational sports and establishment of intercollegiate athletic teams that will soon begin competition for the first time.

The final choice for the GSU mascot will be a combination of the community and university input. The community is able to vote for one week by visiting www.govst.edu/mascotmatchup. By going to that web address, voters will see the four groups of designs, one for each mascot. Voters will vote for one group in its entirety, not just one image.

During that weeklong period, anyone can vote for one of the final four as many times as they want. Voting officially begins Monday, April 7 and ends at midnight Monday, April 14.

A combination of the votes tallied and university officials' input will ultimately determine who the very first GSU mascot is.

"We are now getting into the stretch run for our mascot choice," said Aurélio Valente, GSU's dean of students and associate vice president of academic affairs. "We have had tremendous input from the broad and diverse community GSU serves. This is an exciting time in the school's history and we're eager to see what the final choice will be."

Voters are also encouraged to attend the Mascot Match-up 3-on-3 basketball tournament April 10, at 3 p.m. in the Recreation and Fitness Center Gymnasium. Four basketball teams, each representing one of the four GSU mascot choices, will battle it out for supremacy. This event will also serve as the unveiling of our renovated facilities, which includes a new competitive level floor.

The official announcement of the university mascot is scheduled for May 6 with a not to be missed event at noon in the Hall of Governors. Prizes will go to those who submitted the four finalists, and new mascot swag will be given to those in attendance.

Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway in University Park.