



National Select 7-on-7 at Hoover brings 32 teams to town

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Jeff Sentell -- The Birmingham News



In last year's National Select 7-on-7, Pleasant Grove played Colquitt County, Ga. (The Birmingham News / Hal Yeager)

How can a high school 7-on-7 football passing tournament register on the sports radar, with that "other" football-related event in town?

Easy. It keeps growing like SEC Media Days.

The **National Select 7-on-7** championships will feature 32 teams and 130 games across three days. That's about the only part that hasn't changed.

This year, there are Facebook pages, Twitter feeds and live streaming on the Internet at **ihigh.com** to help cover the happenings at Hoover High School and Regions Park the next three days.

ESPN broadcaster Chris Mortensen will play a big role in the double-elimination tournament, now in its eighth year. He will serve as an analyst on some of the live web casts, give the keynote speech at a team banquet, and make remarks at the official news briefing that kicks off the event today at Embassy Suites in Hoover.

DETAILS

What: National Select 7-on-7 Championships

When: Today through Saturday

Where: Hoover High School and Regions Park

Each of the 32 teams in the field will have four games of pool play later in the afternoon. There are 25 teams in the field that won at least 10 games last season, including eight state champions.

"It's impressive how big this has gotten," Spain Park coach David Shores said.

"It started getting hot and heavy when (former Hoover High coach) Rush Propst started building this thing, but that's nothing like it is now. You're talking about phenomenal levels of competition. It was a pretty big deal already that seems to now go above and beyond every year."

Viewers can watch live games for free at Select7on7.ihigh.com for the first time this year.

"Seventy-five percent of these teams' football players are unable to attend this event, and the ability to give those players access to watch and support their team from home is a great way to include those players and their families," National Select 7-on-7 Executive Director Brandon Sheppard said.

Another aspect of the tournament will be marquee recruits leading their teams. Grady's Damian Swann has 17 offers and is rated the No. 48 player in the country by Rivals.com. He's being wooed by eight SEC teams, including Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

Quarterback Kiehl Frazier, an Auburn commitment, will lead Shiloh Christian this week. He's not expected to join his team coming back from the Elite 11 quarterback camp until Friday. The 6-foot-3, 212-pounder is rated the No. 2 dual-threat quarterback in the country by Rivals.com. Georgia commitment Corey Moore of Griffin is ranked as the No. 10 defensive back in the nation by Rivals. He's rated the nation's No. 11 defensive back on Scout.com. Clemson commitment Charone Peake was rated the nation's top receiver by ESPN's analysts. He's listed as the No. 59 player in the country by Scout.com.

Pool play ends Friday morning and the tournament will be seeded for Friday's afternoon session. The championship game is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

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Who's in: Alpharetta (Ga.); Auburn; Austin; Bob Jones; Columbia (Fla.); Dorman (S.C.); Evangel Christian (La.); Fairhope; Flowery Branch (Ga.); Carver Montgomery; Grady (Ga.); Griffin (Ga.); Hoover A; Hoover B; Jefferson County (Ga.); Jeffersonville (Ind.); Kenton (Ohio); Lassiter (Ga.); Lone Oak (Ky.); Maine South (Ill.); Mandarin Christian (Fla.); Mandeville (La.); McGill-Toolen; Memphis University (Tenn.); North Gwinnett (Ga.); Olive Branch (Miss.); Prattville; Shiloh Christian (Ark.); Spain Park; Springdale Harbor (Ark.); Thomas Jefferson (Pa.); West Monroe (La.)