



Referee Brian Labigan of Ontario brings the ball out to the kickoff line for the start of the game at the Rochester Community Sports Complex in Rochester.

TINA MACINTYRE-YEE/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

Rochester announces first annual Frederick Douglass HBCU Classic

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The city of Rochester will host the first Frederick Douglass HBCU Classic, which will bring football and opportunity to the city’s youths.

With support from community sponsors, including title sponsor Baldwin Richardson Foods, the planned annual event will be officially known as “Baldwin Richardson Foods Presents the Frederick Douglass HBCU Classic Weekend of Hope.”

“This event is not just about football; it’s about investing in our youth, celebrating the rich culture of HBCUs, and strengthening the bonds between

our community and law enforcement,” Mayor Malik Evans said.

The Weekend of Hope will happen Thursday, Sept. 19, through Sunday, Sept. 22, at the Rochester Community Sports Complex at 460 Oak St.

Throughout the weekend, there will be multiple opportunities for City of Rochester high school students to engage with HBCU alumni, athletic staff, players and marching bands. There will also be several public events for the entire community to join the celebration.

On Saturday, Sept. 21, there will be a football game featuring Central State University (Ohio) Marauders facing off against the Albany State (Georgia) Rams at 1 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 and

include game day festivities beginning at 9 a.m.

Following the game, the “5th quarter” Battle of the Bands will feature Central State’s Invincible Marching Marauders and the Albany State Marching Rams Show Band.

Residents will also be able to enjoy public events like the alumni mixer at Innovative Field and the Taste of Rochester Classic Crawl, which highlights Black businesses. Tickets are not required for public events.

Visit www.CityOfRochester.gov/HBCUclassic for more information.

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