



2004 AMERICAN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS
"ONE TEAM. ONE MISSION."



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Contact: John Archibald, Public Relations Director
Phone: (239) 390-2287
Email: john_firecats@yahoo.com

Firecats Prepare For Second ArenaCup Appearance

Estero, FL- Then there were two.

Nearly two months into the 2004 Firecats season, the Firecats could not even call Germain Arena their home. The Firecats were forced to practice outside on a local Pop Warner field in post 100-degree weather because the local hockey team ran all the way to the league championship, but they came up short.

Now the Firecats and Germain Arena will be the home of the 2004 arenafootball2 championship game, the ArenaCup, and the Firecats hope to bring home the first-ever sports championship to the local area.

Coming into Germain Arena this weekend will be the Peoria Pirates, winners of the National Conference championship. The two teams squared off two years ago in the 2002 ArenaCup, with Peoria knocking off Florida 65-47.

One interesting thing to note about the af2's championship game is the fact that an American Conference team has never won. In addition, the Firecats are the first American Conference team to ever host the ArenaCup, meaning that the home team has come out the victor in each of the first four championship games. The Firecats look to break the American Conference jinx on Friday night while maintaining the home field advantage.

Some other statistical notes are the fact that the team achieving the most first downs has lost every time. The team maintaining possession of the football for the longest amount of time has also lost each contest. One more interesting note is the fact that the most penalized team has also won all four ArenaCup championship games.

Perhaps the most impressive statistic is that of the Peoria Pirates' playoff record, which is completely unblemished. Peoria's only other playoff appearance was in 2002 when they won the ArenaCup championship. They have already won three playoff games in this year's post season, improving their playoff record to 7-0.

Tickets are still available for Friday night's arenafootball2 championship game. 2004 Firecats season ticket holders can call the team office at 239-390-2287 to reserve their same seats. All other fans can stop by the Germain Arena box office or call Ticketmaster at 239-334-3309. Kickoff for the 2004 ArenaCup championship is slated for 8:10 p.m. on Friday night.

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Florida Firecats 2004
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11000 Everblades Parkway • Estero, FL 33928 • P: 239-390-2287 • F: 239-390-2286
www.floridafirecats.com