

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Dallas and Dallas Sports Commission Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the State Fair Classic with ALW Entertainment

Weeklong Event Schedule Surrounding Historic HBCU Game Includes Performances by Fat Daddy, Jokia, Deitrick Haddon, TLC, and More

Press kit including B-roll and imagery [CLICK HERE](#)

Dallas (September 22, 2025) – Today, the City of Dallas and the Dallas Sports Commission welcomed the head coaches and athletic directors from Prairie View A&M University and Grambling State University to unveil an exciting lineup of events leading up to the annual **State Fair Classic**. This year, the historic college football showdown celebrating Historically Black Colleges and Universities is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Dating back to 1985, Grambling State holds a 28-11 lead in the series. This year's highly anticipated clash between the Southwestern Athletic Conference rivals is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at the historic Cotton Bowl Stadium in Fair Park.

"The State Fair Classic is more than just a football game — it's your family reunion, a showcase of incredible talent, and a cherished tradition that brings together communities from across Texas, Louisiana, and beyond," said Mitchell Gieber, President of the State Fair of Texas. "The energy, pride, and pageantry you'll experience make it one of the most beloved highlights at the Most Texan Place on Earth."

The State Fair Classic is renowned for its unique showmanship, featuring captivating halftime performances by the Prairie View A&M University Marching Storm and Grambling State University's World Famed Tiger Marching Band. Beyond the game and halftime show, attendees can look forward to two fantastic concerts on the Chevy Main Stage at the State Fair. ALW Entertainment has secured **Fat Daddy** for a pregame concert, as well as **TLC**, performing postgame.

"The historic football clash on the field is the centerpiece of my 50 years of involvement growing the State Fair Classic," said Al Wash, Founder, ALW Entertainment. "It is much more than a game; it is an event! The week will be a bigger experience for all to enjoy the 100th Year of the Classic."

The State Fair Classic's history dates back to 1925, when Wiley College faced Langston University in the inaugural game. One hundred years later, Prairie View A&M and Grambling State will continue the tradition with a week's worth of events and alumni get-togethers, showcasing the centennial milestone. Celebrations slated to kick off the weekend include a VIP reception, a celebrity golf tournament, and a high school battle of the bands for the honor of performing pregame at the State Fair

Classic.

“Our aim is to make sure that the State Fair Classic gets the recognition it deserves as a staple in our sports community,” said Monica Paul, Executive Director of the Dallas Sports Commission. “Having the longevity to continue for 100 straight years is a testament to the passion of the game’s fans.”

For additional information about the State Fair Classic, including how to purchase tickets, visit statefairclassicfootball.com.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 25

5:30 PM VIP Reception (Invite Only)

Friday, September 26

8:30 AM Radio-One Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament

8:30 AM Prairie View A&M Alumni Dallas Chapter 28th Annual Scholarship Gala & Silent Auction

7:00 PM Welcome Soiree – Grambling State University Metro DFW Alumni Chapter

Saturday, September 27

8:00 AM High School Battle of the Bands and Dance Squads at Beverly Humphrey “Tiger” Stadium, 200 E. Wintergreen, Lancaster, TX 75134

4:00 PM Pregame Performance: Fat Daddy Biggest Southern Soul Party State Fair of Texas-Chevy Main Stage

6:00 PM Kickoff: Prairie View A&M Panthers vs Grambling State University Tigers

National Anthem: Performed by Jokia

Black National Anthem: Performed by Deitrick Haddon and The State Fair Classic Mass Choir

Opening Prayer: Rev. Frederick Douglas Haynes, III

Battle of the Bands with PVAMU and GSU

Postgame Performance: TLC

Sunday, September 28

10:00 AM Virtual Worship Service

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About the State Fair Classic

The State Fair Classic is an annual college football game celebrating the rich history, culture, and traditions of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The event takes place at the Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas, Texas, featuring thrilling football, halftime performances, live concerts, cultural showcases, food festivals, and educational programs, making it a unique celebration of sports and culture.

About Dallas Sports Commission

As a division of Visit Dallas, the Dallas Sports Commission (DSC) is passionately committed to generating economic impact and enriching the quality of life within our community through sports. The DSC attracts and hosts amateur, grassroots, collegiate, and professional championship events. Since 2014, the DSC has hosted over 614 events, welcomed more than 9.5 million attendees, and generated over \$5.4 billion in economic impact. For more information, visit www.dallassports.org.

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