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City of Dallas and Dallas Sports Commission Countdown To Kickoff for 2026 State Fair Classic

Tickets Available June 5 for Historic HBCU Rivalry Game

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Dallas (June 2, 2026) – The stage is set for the renewal of one of the most storied rivalries in college football as the City of Dallas and the Dallas Sports Commission welcome the return of the 101st annual **State Fair Classic** on September 26, 2026. This historic college football showdown between the Prairie View A&M Panthers and the Grambling State Tigers has been a celebrated tradition at the historic Cotton Bowl Stadium in Fair Park since the 1980s.

“The State Fair Classic is one of Dallas’ most treasured traditions, uniting fans, families, and alumni in a powerful celebration of HBCU’s rich legacy and spirit,” said Al Wash, founder of ALW Entertainment. “For more than 100 years, the State Fair Classic has delivered unforgettable moments both on and off the field, and we’re proud to continue growing that legacy in Dallas.”

This year’s highly anticipated clash between the Southwestern Athletic Conference rivals will kickoff at 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 26, 2026.

The State Fair Classic is renowned for its unique pageantry, 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 shows, tickets for the State Fair Classic also include admission to the State Fair of Texas, Midway, including pre and post-game concerts on the Chevy Main Stage. The Chevy Main Stage lineup will be announced on June 17.

“Our goal is to ensure the State Fair Classic remains an experience that everyone can be part of and enjoy,” said Executive Director of the Dallas Sports Commission Monica Paul. “More than a football game, this event is a celebration of community, culture, tradition, and the enduring spirit of HBCU excellence that brings people together year after year.”

Dating back to 1985, Grambling State holds a 28-12 lead in the series between these two historically Black college and university programs, after Prairie View’s 28-13 win last year.

“For more than a century, the State Fair Classic has been a cherished part of the State Fair of Texas, bringing together generations of fans through the shared traditions of football, culture, music, and community,” said State Fair of Texas President Mitchell Glieber. “As we celebrate the game’s 101st year, we’re honored to continue hosting this iconic matchup and the memories it creates for families and fans across Texas and Louisiana.”

Tickets for the 2026 State Fair Classic start at \$40 and are available starting June 5, and can be purchased at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com).

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 ALW Entertainment

ALW Entertainment's portfolio includes concert tours, festival activations, theater presentations, community events, sports entertainment properties, and branded experiential campaigns designed to reach diverse and multigenerational audiences across Texas and the United States.

About Dallas Sports Commission

The Dallas Sports Commission pursues amateur, grassroots, collegiate and professional championship events, positioning Dallas as the premier sports destination. A division of VisitDallas, the Dallas Sports Commission focuses on generating economic impact as well as improving the quality of life within the community through sports. For more information, visit www.dallassports.org

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