

Archdiocese of Detroit

Cardinal-Archbishops Make “Friendly Wager” on Pistons-Lakers Series

The cardinal-archbishops of Los Angeles and Detroit have put a little something on the NBA Finals between the Lakers and the Pistons.

In a phone conversation on Friday, June 4th, Cardinal Roger Mahony “wagered” a shipment of silk-screened t-shirts and baked goods from a unique job training facility. With the slogan “Jobs Not Jails,” [Homeboys Industries](#) is a first stop center offering a second chance to at-risk, gang-impacted youth in Los Angeles County. If the Pistons win the series, the clothes and food would be sent to Detroit and distributed in local homeless shelters.

For his part, Cardinal Adam Maida put up a case of Friar Rick’s home-raised spring honey, along with canned goods and jams. They come by way of Brother Rick Samyn, OFM Capuchin, coordinator of the [Earth Works Urban Farm in the City](#). Located in the core city, Earth Works involves the local community and would-be farmers in growing organic produce for their own consumption and that of others. If the Lakers win the series, the farm goods would be sent to Los Angeles and distributed to low-income families.

“I am looking forward to a great series, but in the end, there will be no stopping the Lakers,” said Cardinal Mahony. “This friendly wager gives me the opportunity to highlight a wonderful program for at-risk youths, while cheering on a wonderful basketball team at the same time. Go Lakers!”

Likewise, Cardinal Maida is looking forward to a great series and predicts it will go seven games. “The Pistons have a great work ethic,” the cardinal said. “And in the end, that will help them prevail.” There’s a chance this could end up a “sweet deal” for Los Angeles, Cardinal Maida said. “But more than likely, they’re going to ‘lose their shirts.’ And the series!”

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