



News & Sports

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Sports

Eugene Chargers worth seeing

I often wonder just what I will write about when I sit down at my computer to begin work. I had a topic in mind when I began this column, but I will write about that at another time.

Tuesday evening I made a marvelous discovery I wanted to share with my readers, especially if you are a basketball fan.

There is now a professional basketball team in our area. They are the Eugene Chargers.

The Chargers play in the International Basketball League. This league plays according to professional rules, for the most part.

The shot clock is only 22 seconds long so teams get up and down the court quickly. For example, Tuesday's game between the Chargers and the Central Oregon Hot Shots was over in less than two hours time.

And to give you an idea of the speed of the game, Eugene won, 166-127. When I say pro rules are used, the game is four quarters, each quarter is 12 minutes long.

On this particular night, Eugene scored 85 points in the first 24 minutes of the game, which shows a high octane offense that is really fun to watch.

I wish I had discovered this entertainment value earlier, since this season is coming to a close.

However, Eugene still has three more home games this season, on June 10 and 11 against Tacoma and June 16, against Seattle. They have five more away games.

Home games are played at the Morse Event Center on the campus of Northwest Christian College in Eugene. Admission prices are modest, too. An adult ticket costs \$6 and teens cost just \$3 and kids 12 and under are free. All seating is general admission.

This makes IBL basketball very affordable family entertainment.

Tuesday's game also had a local angle to it.

Jay Anderson, who played his college basketball for the Ducks, plays for the Chargers, while J.S. Nash, who played his college ball up the road in Corvallis at Oregon State, is on the roster of the Central Oregon team.

I noticed several different rule changes, those I have mentioned previously, such as the 22 second shot clock and four 12 minute quarters.

Other difference in rules are that the ball must cross mid court in eight seconds, not ten, only five fouls are allowed, not six as in the NBA and, on held balls, they are jumped up.

Also, fewer time outs are allowed. Each team is allowed just one per quarter and they are lost if not used. The whole concept stops the boring parade to the free throw line late in games and the multiple time outs called in the late stages of most NBA and college games.

A friend told me about this league and I thought I would check it out and I am certainly glad I did. It was

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48 minutes of very entertaining basketball.

So, dear readers, if basketball is your cup of tea, check it out. Their website is www.eugenechargersbasketball.com. There, you can find out much more than I could tell you.

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