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CHINESE TEAM JOINS IBL FOR 2008 SEASON

Portland, OR—The International Basketball League has announced that the Shanxi Kylins from the Chinese Basketball Association will join the league for the 2008 season. The Chinese Basketball Association has produced current NBA players Yao Ming (Houston Rockets) and Yi Jianlian (Milwaukee Bucks). The Kylins will compete as full-fledged members of the IBL in 2008, playing an 18 game road schedule. The full 2008 IBL schedule will be released on January 15.

Shaanxi Kylins' 6'9" Forward Li Meng.

Based in Xi'an, Shaanxi, the Kylins play in the CBA's North Division. The Kylins were founded in 2000 by the Xi'an Dongsheng Group.

IBL Commissioner Mikal Duilio—"It has always been my goal to have legitimate international play in the IBL. Coming off our most successful season last year, we really expect 2008 to be outstanding—having Shanxi on board definitely adds to that."

The IBL is uniquely able to offer Asian teams an efficient and affordable option to compete in an American professional basketball league. The IBL's system of organizing teams in regional clusters makes it possible for the league to offer an overseas team the same 'one flight guarantee' it gives its domestic owners. The Kylins will be based at the USBA in Springfield, Oregon, and play its 18 game schedule in the IBL's northwest cluster, beginning on April 18 versus the Central Oregon Hotshots.

Adding the Kylins to the 2008 schedule is a direct result of the recent creation of the IBL's Asian Expansion Department, headed by former Shanghai resident David White (See 'IBL Adds Asian Expansion Department' news release on the Shanxi Kylins page at www.iblhoopsonline.com).

"This is an exciting first step towards our eventual goal of adding several teams from the region as permanent members of the IBL," said White.

Joining White in the IBL's Asian Expansion Department is Sadachika Yoshioka, the IBL's Director of Japanese Relations. Commissioner Duilio spent a week with Yoshioka in Japan last December, visiting with members of the Japanese basketball community and watching a few JBL games. Rounding out the Asian Expansion Department is Eric Cuadra, the Director of Philippines Relations.

About Xi'an

Xi'an, a city of over eight million, borders the northern foot of the Qinling Mountains to the south, and the banks of Wei River to the north. Hua Shan, one of the five sacred Taoist mountains, is located 100 km away to the east of the city. Xi'an is the capital city of the Shaanxi Province. Xi'an has been the capital of eleven dynasties for more than 2000 years. Along with Rome and Constantinople, this city played a vital role in bridging the gap between east and west. There are important sites and relics in this city. The Terracotta Army of Qin Emperor, is regarded as the eighth wonder of the world. The Tomb of Yang Yuhuan and Huaqing Pool all date back to Tang Dynasty, the peak of China's federal period. Famen Temple in Xi'an is the only temple in mainland China storing true relics of Buddha Sykyamuni.

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