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LOS ANGELES LIGHTNING ADD TOBY BAILEY AND BILLY KNIGHT TO LINE-UP

Los Angeles, CA – After discovering its offensive rhythm in a pair of International Basketball League victories last weekend, the Los Angeles Lightning added to its firepower on Tuesday with the signing of ex-UCLA stars Toby Bailey and Billy Knight.

"It's all positive," said L.A. coach Ron Quarterman, whose team posted season-high scoring totals (128-123 and 146-121) in wins over the Holland (Mich.) Blast. "They're highly experienced, veteran ballplayers to go along with the strong players we already have. "We're going to have a pretty formidable lineup."

That gives the Lightning three ex-NBA players for this weekend's games against the China Shanxi Zhongyu. Ex-Clipper Lamond Murray leads the team in scoring and rebounding (26 ppg, 13.5 rpg) while ex-Sonic and current L.A. Clipper shooting coach Fred Vinson is the third-leading scorer at 16.8. The Lightning (2-6) will take on the Zhongyu on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Cal Lutheran's Gilbert Sports Arena. The team is offering a Memorial weekend special with one child admitted free with every paid adult.

Bailey, a 6-6 guard, helped lead UCLA to the 1995 NCAA Championship with a 26-point performance as a freshman in the title game. After averaging nearly 18 points in his senior year (1997-98), he was picked by the Lakers in the second round of the NBA Draft and later traded to the Phoenix Suns, where he played two seasons. Bailey, 32, has extensive experience in Europe with stints in Greece, Italy and Belgium. During the 2007-08 season, he played for the Koln 99ers in Germany before signing with Ricoh Marese in the highest Spanish pro league in Feb., 2008.

The left-handed Knight, a 6-5 guard/forward, averaged 14.1 points as a senior at UCLA in 2002. His teammates included current NBA players Jason Kapon and Matt Barnes and the Bruins reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

Bailey was the No. 2 scorer for the Santa Barbara Breakers in the IBL last year, averaging 24.8 points and 7.8 rebounds. Knight, who's also played extensively in Europe, averaged 13.6 points and 4.1 rebounds for the Breakers. Kamran Sufi, a 5-9 point guard, dished out 21 assists in his Lightning debut last Saturday, two off the IBL record.

"This is a guard's league, just look at the scoring leaders," said Quarterman. "Now we can match up when it comes to scoring. It's great to have a guy like Sufi running the show, he makes everyone better." The

Lightning will complete its season-opening, 12-game homestand on May 30-31 vs. the Windy City Soldiers. On June 6-15, L.A. will take its only road trip -- six games in 10 days -- to Las Vegas, Chicago, Indiana and Michigan. On June 20-21, the Arizona Flame will come to Cal Lutheran for the final two home games of the regular season.
