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CONTACT: Trask Frost, Media Director (503) 810-1563

IBL PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL TO VISIT OLYMPIA JUNE 24TH

Olympia, WA—The International Basketball League will make a stop in Olympia during the 2008 season, as the Snohomish County Explosion will take on the Olympia Reign on Tuesday, June 24th; the game will be played at the Tumwater High School Gymnasium at 7:15pm. Tickets will be available at the door at the following prices: \$6 for adults; \$3 for youth (17 & under); \$3 for seniors (55 & over); and \$3 for students with college I.D.

The International Basketball League is interested in bringing its high energy brand of professional basketball to Washington’s capital city as early as the 2009 season. The fourth year IBL believes that Olympia has all the characteristics of the IBL’s most successful markets. IBL Commissioner Mikal Duilio—“In many ways, Olympia mirrors two of our markets (Elkhart Indiana and Battle Creek Michigan—that regularly draw over 3,000 fans (and up to 5,900 fans).

- **For video** on Elkhart, click on <http://www.iblhoopsonline.com/teamElkhart.asp>
- **For video** on Battle Creek, click on <http://www.iblhoopsonline.com/teamBattleCreek.asp>

The new team would be called the Olympia Reign; the Reign would focus on being a family entertainment experience—“this venture is about providing something positive for the youth of Olympia,” said prospective owner Mark Felton. IBL Commissioner Mikal Duilio—“We are really excited about playing in Olympia this season. This is a region full of great sports fans, and I believe they will really enjoy both the style and quality of IBL basketball.” In addition to the basketball, the games will offer performances from local school/community groups, and other family oriented activities. “A focus on community and family have always been hallmarks of the IBL game-night experience,” said Duilio.

IBL Commissioner Duilio discusses a key hurdle for the team in officially joining in 2009 “getting a venue to understand that the team is for the community and does not have a big budget is key—the team needs a venue that wants this for the community”.

Should the Reign become an IBL team in 2009, they would join expansion squads in Vancouver British Columbia and the new Japanese team—the Nippon Tornados.

The opponent for the June 24th game: Basketball fans should not miss this opportunity to catch the Snohomish County Explosion in action. 2007 IBL All-Stars Rashaad Powell, Justin Murray (Washington State University) and Donald Watts (University of Washington) are the star players; this high-scoring trio averaged a combined 64.5 points per game last season, with Powell’s 28.9 leading the way.



Donald Watts



Rashaad Powell

Roster for the Olympia Reign: The Reign will feature local players Jimmy Anderson, Quentin Nolen, Jarel Cherry from St. Martin's, as well as former Evergreen players Greg Johnson and Devon Connor. The Reign have played one game already during the 2008 season—a 123 to 158 loss to the Bellingham Slam on May 9. In that game, the Reign were led by the duo of Greg Johnson and Sam Moore, who scored 28 points apiece to share game-high scoring honors. The box score is available in the 'Game Results' section of the IBL website.

Media members—for information, photos and video of the Explosion, Reign or for any IBL images, videos, rosters, etc. visit www.iblhoopsonline.com.

IBL FEATURES:

UNIQUE RULES KEEP THE GAME MOVING AND A 1-FLIGHT GUARANTEE KEEPS OWNERS HEALTHY

The IBL two key rules that keep the game moving along and fun for fans: 1) The immediate inbounds and 2) IBL teams are allowed one timeout per quarter. These two rules work to eliminate dead time and promote a free-flowing, high-scoring game that lasts only two hours:

Beyond exciting basketball, the IBL offers owners the most efficient business model in the industry.

Organizing teams in regional clusters has enabled the IBL to offer owners an unprecedented 'one flight guarantee'. IBL teams can play a variety of opponents from all over the country, indeed, **the world**—and only fly once.

IBL GOES GLOBAL WITH ASIAN EXPANSION DEPARTMENT

The International Basketball League's most significant change in the fourth season is the recent addition of its Asian Expansion Department, which has resulted in the addition of a team from **China** joining the IBL for the 2008 season. The IBL will also add its first Japanese team in 2009, in addition to an expected second Chinese team. IBL Commissioner Mikal Duilio – "Having the IBL make this type of progress with respect to becoming a genuinely international league is tremendously exciting. The response from our owners has been fantastic, and I think the intrigue associated with international play will really energize our fans as well."

Having teams from other nations join the league will not change the IBL's core principles of offering owners the most efficient opportunity to run a team (relative to the minor league basketball industry) while providing fans with an up-tempo, high energy brand of basketball. The league's commitment to efficiency makes the IBL a uniquely viable option for teams from overseas to join— "having our teams in geographic clusters enables the IBL to offer our owners a guarantee of **one** flight per season" said Duilio. "The Asian teams receive the same guarantee (**1** flight); an Asian team can come to the U.S. and play all of their away games within **one** flight."

The first Asian team on board, the Shanxi Kylins, is a team in the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA). The CBA has produced NBA superstar Yao Ming, and Yi Jianlian—the number six overall pick in the 2007 NBA Draft. The Kylins will play a full 20 game IBL schedule; the Chinese team will house and be based at one of the premier basketball training facilities in the world- the United States Basketball Academy in Oregon. The Kylins will join the Edmonton Chill (**Alberta, Canada**) and **Vancouver British Columbia** as the IBL's first international teams.