



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NEWS RELEASE

### Reign return to the Court Thursday looking for support in the Capital City

**June 19, 2013 – Olympia, WA** – The Olympia Reign want to continue as Kings of the Court in 2014 and scheduled two games this IBL season, their sixth, to encourage the community to get to know the team, players and coaches as they look for a new partner for the team.

In 2012 the Reign called the Little Creek Casino Events Center home, but due to changes in management were no longer able to partner and play at the venue. Now at South Puget Sound Community College, accessible and welcoming the Reign for two games this season, they may have found a new home. Next task is to find a partner to be a part of the investment group with the team. “The Olympia Reign has built a strong fan base that keeps growing every year. They were disappointed that we did not have a full season in the IBL this year. The Olympia Reign players have reached out to the youth in the area and have become mentors and a positive influence. I would like to see someone with passion for the game, that would like to continue bringing a top quality brand of basketball to Olympia, step up and invest to carry on what has been built for the past 7 years,” Reign Owner Mark Felton shared.

As a member of the Olympia Reign for five seasons, Mike Ward wants to see his team return full time to the IBL. “It’s important to keep a team in this community because this team is all for the youth and players like myself, Nate Menefee, Gio Woods and Marcus Whittaker who played basketball in the community and is heavily involved with the youth by coaching, training, and being role models. We have proven what is possible and want to keep building

Leading the Northwest Elite program in Olympia, Ward and his teammates continue to give back. “I have two AAU teams 6<sup>th</sup> grade Boys & Girls. We host training at the Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd and are also working with Anderson Athletics & C.O.B (community of basketball) who host training in the Lacey all summer long. We also plan to expand our teams for boys and girls ages 5-18 this fall to keep inspiring the youth in the greater Olympia area to strive for their basketball dreams like I did,” Ward shared, obviously inspired by the youth he coaches and trains.

Due to the Reign not participating in a full season Ward took his talents to the 2011 Champion Vancouver Volcanoes with seven other 2012 IBL All Stars, and is looking forward to the IBL Playoffs July 3-5 in Portland. “Playing for the Volcanoes this year has been great and fun. They have great fans, great coaches, a great owner and it’s live at every home game. Playing with seven other All Stars is a real privilege. We all have one goal and that’s winning a Championship. They fans, players, coaches, owner has accepted me with open arms and I appreciate that. My goal is continue to improve my game and work on my craft. Take advantage of all opportunities that come my way and play basketball at a highest level and look forward to the Olympia Reign being back next season!”

The Reign hope the community continues to embrace them and support the international competition Thursday against the Japan Nippon Tomatoes, and into 2014.

**For additional information contact: Mark Felton ph: 360.790.5165**

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**About Olympia Reign**

The Olympia Reign bring professional sports and entertainment to Olympia residents in a family friendly environment for the fans, exciting high scoring action and fun for everyone. As a venue to help players, youth and help them work toward and achieve their goals, while giving back to the community by providing a venue to help showcase local businesses.

**About Northwest Elite**

Northwest Elite is at the Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd Mondays & Thursdays 6:45-7:45pm for boys and girls ages 8-12 and 7:45-8:45pm boys and girls 13-18. Northwest Elite in partnership with Anderson Athletics & C.O.B (community of basketball) host training in the Lacey Mondays and Wednesdays 5-7pm, Thursdays 7-9pm, and Sundays 1-5pm at Pacific Lutheran Church. Upcoming Events include Northwest Elite, Anderson Athletics and C.O.B will be hosting training all summer long and will be expanding their teams for boys and girls ages 5-18 coming this fall. More info about Northwest Elite email: [northwestelite13@gmail.com](mailto:northwestelite13@gmail.com), Anderson Athletics email: [andersonathleticsofwa@gmail.com](mailto:andersonathleticsofwa@gmail.com) and C.O.B email: [communityofbasketball@yahoo.com](mailto:communityofbasketball@yahoo.com).

**About International Basketball League (IBL)**

The International Basketball League (IBL) is an efficient men's professional basketball league heading into our ninth season based in Vancouver, Washington, USA engaging high level athletes, coaches and business professionals, dedicated to fostering international basketball talent focused on providing family friendly events for fans in great communities. Our full season and branding teams have spanned North America with International Tour Teams who participate in our high level competition from late April until early July just as the NBA Development League and many overseas leagues are winding down attracting first-class athletes. IBL teams play in quality venues with unique on-court rules which create a fast-paced, high scoring, exciting game. Players move into positions with the NBA Development League (D League) as well as international leagues overseas such as our partner the Basketball Japan League (BJL), Chinese Basketball Association (CBA), South East Australian Basketball League (SEABL), Basketball Bundesliga (BBL), Portuguese Basketball League (LCB) and many more.

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