



PORTLAND CHINOOKS MEDIA

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Portland Hosts Defending Champs Bellingham, Salem Memorial Weekend

By Jeremy Scott

PORTLAND – The holiday weekend isn't an off weekend for the IBL's first place team. The (5-1) Portland Chinooks open a lengthy homestand with games on Friday and Saturday evenings at Eastmoreland Courts. First up, the Chinooks look to hold home court against the two-time defending IBL champions, Bellingham Slam. Then Salem drives north looking for a road win the following night. Both games are scheduled to tip at 7:00pm.

Portland is coming off a win across the river this past Saturday when they handed Vancouver their first loss of the season. After playing five of their first six away from home, Coach Trevor Kiser's squad looks to build momentum at home, where they play their next four and six of seven.

Speaking of records, the Chinooks were the first team to defeat Bellingham on their home floor since 2012 with a 119-116 win on May 2nd. Seven players scored in double figures led by Germain Jordan's triple-double of 25 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. Jermaine Blackburn hit for 22 points and Jared Cunningham added 20. Six Slam players scored in double-digit land and they nearly had enough on the scoreboard, but not on this night as Portland won for the first time against Bellingham on the road.

Bellingham won a three-game series last year, 2-1. The teams meet just twice this regular season. The Slam are led by head coach and former assistant Tyler Amaya, who replaces the stepped-down Rob Ridnour. They're led on the floor by veteran 6'3" guard Morris Anderson, averaging 21/ppg and six assists. Returning Jacob Stevenson and Blake Poole are averaging north of 18/ppg apiece. Poole also collects 15 rebounds per contest. But, their talented roster doesn't end there. Can Portland out-duel one of the league's best again?

Salem (0-2), playing an abbreviated IBL schedule in 2014, comes to the Rose City for the second time this month in seek of their first win. Portland took care of business on May 9th, winning 118-97 when Cunningham was the man, scoring a season-high 33 points and collecting 13 boards. Four teammates

chipped in double-figure points. The tandem of Joe Burton and Tyrone White of Salem were much to handle, combining for 49 points. But with little help elsewhere, the points just didn't add up.

Portland and Salem will play each other five times over the spring and summer, four in Portland. It's a series that the Chinooks dominated last time, 4-1. The 6'7" forward Burton is proving that his rookie year was no fluke. He's averaging 22.5 points and 14.5 rebounds. Mike Taylor and Tyrone White are also reliable scorers for the Sabers at north of 20/ppg. It's difficult to beat a team more than once the same way. How will things be different the second time around?

Tickets for all Chinooks games are available at the door (3015 SE Berkeley Place). The next home games after this weekend are Sunday, June 1st at 5pm vs. Vancouver, and Tuesday, June 3rd vs. Salem at 7:00.

About the Portland Chinooks:

An original member of the IBL since 2004, the Chinooks play their home games at Eastmoreland Courts, a multi-use facility along the banks of Johnson Creek in Southeast Portland. The spring-summer schedule runs from late April to June with playoffs in early July. You can find out more about the team at www.ibl.com/portland_chinooks. The Chinooks are owned by Terry Emmert, founder of Emmert International, a Clackamas-based company specializing in heavy haul transportation and rigging. He also owns the city's new arena football team, the Portland Thunder.

About the International Basketball League:

A professional basketball league in its tenth season that attracts high-level athletes, coaches and business professionals delivering fast-paced, high-scoring, family-friendly action. With full season and branding teams that have spanned North America and internationally, the IBL now partners with the West Coast Basketball League (WCBL) bringing competition from the Pacific Northwest to California.