



PORTLAND CHINOOKS MEDIA

Date: May 15th, 2014 | Contact: Meadow Lemon | meadowlemon@portlandthunder.com | Author: Jeremy Scott

Emmert's Chinooks Off To Rockin' Start

PORTLAND – The tenth season of IBL hoops is three weeks into the books and the Portland Chinooks have just one blemish on their record through five games. It's their best start since the 2011 season.

The 4-1 Chinooks lost their only game to their interstate rival Vancouver in which they led by 27 points before falling by four, 128-124 two weeks ago. Portland looks for revenge in the "Battle of the Bridge 2" this Saturday, May 17th at Clark College. Tip-off is set for 7pm and can be seen on the league's YouTube channel. The Volcanoes are undefeated at 5-0. A Portland win would create a two-way tie for first place in the International Conference.

Portland returns home to Eastmoreland Courts next weekend for a pair of match-ups on Friday and Saturday, May 23rd and 24th at 7pm. First they'll face the two-time defending IBL champion Bellingham Slam. The next night, the Chinooks meet the Sabres of Salem in a re-match of last Friday night's game when the Chinooks won handily, 118-97.

Returning to the Chinooks this season are leading scorer Jared Cunningham and the reigning most improved player, Germain Jordan. Jordan (6'6" F Dillard) is leading the team with 29/ppg, 11 rebounds and six assists. He already has three games with double-figures in rebounds and one triple double (25, 12 and 10 vs. Bellingham 5/2). Cunningham (6'9" F Cleveland State) is nearly at his 2013 scoring average with 24/ppg and 10.5 rebounds. David Lucas, son of the legendary Maurice Lucas has played in just two games and is averaging 14/ppg.

Portland also welcomes several new faces to the roster, although some are no stranger to the IBL. Dominique Watson, Jermaine Blackburn and Steffen Harvey are both averaging north of 12/ppg. Second-year Chinook Justin Steinke is also in double figures averaging 10.3/ppg.

The Chinooks season started the last weekend in April with a trip to Los Angeles to take on WCBL member teams, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. Portland defeated a tough Breakers squad, 136-127. The next night, they were too much to handle for Team Macleem, winning 127 to 96. Portland got their first win ever in Bellingham in a tight affair that ended 119-116 on May 2nd.

The Chinooks are in discussions with the league office to add another home game on Sunday, June 22nd. Details will be announced when the game is confirmed. Tickets for all Chinooks games are available at the door (3015 SE Berkeley Place).

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 online at www.ibl.com/portland_chinooks. The team is owned by Clackamas tycoon Terry Emmert, founder of Emmert International, specializing in heavy haul transportation and rigging. He's also the owner of the city's new arena football team, the Portland Thunder.

About the International Basketball League:

We're a men's professional basketball league in our 10th season engaging high-level athletes, coaches and business professionals dedicated to fostering talent focused on providing family-friendly events. Our full season and branding teams have spanned North America with International tour teams, attracting first-class athletes as the NBA Development League and many overseas leagues are winding down. The IBL plays with unique rules which create a fast-paced, high-scoring, exciting game. This year, the league has partnered with the West Coast Basketball League (WCBL) bringing teams from the Pacific Northwest to California for interleague competition.