



NEWS

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Chinooks Remain In First Place With Weekend Split

By Jeremy Scott

PORTLAND – The Portland Chinooks (6-2) went into Memorial Day weekend tied for first place and once the dust settled, there they remained following a split at home versus Bellingham and Salem.

On Friday night, the defending IBL champion Slam came to town and handed the home team a 106-86 thumping. The Chinooks would take of business 24 hours later beating the Sabres for the second time this season, 110-93.

In Portland's defeat to Bellingham, they failed to reach the century mark for the first time this year and scored 32 fewer points than their previous season low of 118.

Jared Cunningham (6'9" F Cleveland State) and Jermaine Blackburn (6'6" F Boise State) cashed in with 20 points each. Dominique Watson added 11 points off the bench. Germain Jordan, the league's 2nd best scorer coming into the match-up was held to six points, although he managed to grab 12 rebounds, something he's done at least four times this season. He also blocked three shots and stole the ball as many times.

Things were much different when Salem brought a few new players to town for the second of five regular season meetings. One thing that didn't change though was the result. It was Jordan's bounce-back game with 33 points, unofficially. Justin Steinke (6'3 G Clackamas) stroked a season-high four three-pointers on his way 26 points, also a season-best accomplishment. Cunningham added 17.

Portland sits in a tie for first place with Bellingham, leading Vancouver by just a half-game. However, a Memorial Day match-up between those two teams could decide whether the Chinooks remain in a tie for that spot, or if they're pushed down to second by matter of schedule.

The Chinooks return to Eastmoreland Courts in one week, hosting Vancouver in “Battle of the Bridge 3” next Sunday, June 1st with a 5:00pm tip-off. Salem returns to town on Tuesday, June 3rd at 7pm. 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 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.