

**now
daily!**

SportsTribune

Oregon Waves set to play for IBL title

Fellow finalist L.A. Lightning feature several former NBA players

BY LUKE MONES

The Portland Tribune, Jul 21, 2009, [Updated Oct 30, 2009](#)



Former Portland State point guard Jeremiah Dominguez helped the Oregon Waves reach the International Basketball League playoffs. The Waves will play the Los Angeles Lightning for the league championship.

JED JACOBSON / GETTY IMAGES

The Oregon Waves, whose home games took place at The Hoop in Beaverton this season, are getting ready to play for the International Basketball League championship.

The Waves will face the NBA veteran-laden Los Angeles Lightning in a best-of-three series at Cal Lutheran University in Los Angeles. Game 1 is July 25, Game 2 is July 26 and a third game, if necessary, would be on July 27.

The Waves (15-7) have been led by former Portland State point guard Jeremiah Dominguez, ex-Oregon State guard Lamar Hurd and forward David Lucas, former Oregon guard David Jackson and ex-Western Oregon guard Robert Day.

The Lightning (16-4) are paced by former NBA players Lamond Murray, Bryon Russell, Fred Vinson, Darrick Martin and Toby Bailey.

The teams did not meet during the IBL season, and Waves coach Terrence Dickens says he thinks his squad can present the Lightning with some problems.

"We can beat L.A. with speed, because our guards are really fast, and the rules favor us," Dickens says. "NBA guys are used to settling down and running plays, and they just haven't seen our system. They may be bigger and stronger, but we'll beat them in transition."

The fourth-year IBL, a minor league founded by Portland-area basketball fan and entrepreneur Mikal Duilio, encourages fast play and high-scoring games with some subtle rule differences, including a 22-second shot clock, from the NBA and other leagues

The Waves, who replaced the defunct Portland Chinooks, reached the championship round with playoff victories of 121-104 over the Vancouver (Wash.) Volcanoes and 148-135 over the Snohomish County Explosion.

The 6-5 Day leads Oregon with 24.7 points per game and also has a team-high 9.2 rebounds. Dominguez, 5-6, has dished out a club-high 8.2 assists and ranks second in scoring at 21.2 points per game. The team's second-leading rebounder is 7-2 Brad Kanis, a center from Southern Utah, who has pulled down 8.6 boards per outing.

In the postseason victory over Snohomish County, Jackson scored 34 points, Lucas had 32, Hurd got 30 points and 10 assists, and Day just missed a triple-double with 22 points, 18 rebounds and nine assists.

Against Vancouver in the playoffs, 6-9 forward Isiah Fox from Arizona was Oregon's No. 2 scorer with 19 points. Day had 22.

The Lightning are coming off a 132-121 semifinals win over the 2008 IBL champion Bellingham Slam. L.A. opened the playoffs with a 128-126 triumph over the Seattle Mountaineers. The 5-11 Martin led the Lightning with 28 and 20 points, respectively, in those games.

Murray, a 6-7 forward, has averaged 24.2 points and 6.7 rebounds. Russell, also a 6-7 forward, has chipped in 12.1 points and 6.4 boards. Vinson, a 6-4 guard, is averaging 17.5 points, and Bailey, a 6-6 guard, has given L.A. 18.2 points, 8.2 rebounds and 7.5 assists.

Dickens says that many IBL players "still have the mindset of bringing the ball down and running the play," whereas the Waves use a lot of "quick-hitting plays, so we try to get up and down and get an easy bucket that way."

Dominguez might not be available for the championship series, however. Dickens says the former Big Sky Conference MVP has a potential, conflicting spot with the Mexican national team. Dominguez, who has missed the last three Waves games, is trying to work it out to compete in the IBL title series, as well.

Dickens, who also owns the Oregon franchise, says he and the Lightning owner, Mark Harwell, agreed that L.A. would be the best site for the championship round because of Southern California's greater NBA connections and pro scouts, giving the players more exposure.

Dickens agreed to a best-of-three series because he felt it gave the visiting team a more even shot at winning the crown than would be the case in a winner-take-all, single-game format.

The Waves coach says he is proud of how his team came together since the season began in mid-May. He says the chemistry is no coincidence.

"A lot of these local guys know each other and have played together in high school, college or pro ball, and they hang out outside of basketball," he says. "So, if somebody leaves the team at any time for whatever reason, they're just as happy. Guys are here to win the championship, so they really buy into the big picture."