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## **HIGH FLYERS FIRST HOME GAME IN FRANCHISE HISTORY THIS THURSDAY**

### **TEAM ALSO ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE, NEW RADIO DEAL, NEW SPONSORS, AND NEW PLAYERS**

**Yamhill County, Oregon**—The Yamhill HighFlyers are the newest members of the International Basketball League. The league features 20 teams from Canada, China, Japan, and across the United States. The league features top level talent, including many who were college stars, several ex-NBA players, and many more with overseas playing experience.

**First Home Game:** The first home game in franchise history will take place this Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15pm at Patton Middle School in McMinnville (corner of NE 19<sup>th</sup> and McDonald, one block south of HWY99). The HighFlyers will be taking on the Nippon Tornadoes, a professional team from Japan. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (62+), and \$4 for children/students with ID. Advance tickets are on sale now at all Ticketwest outlets, including the McMinnville Safeway. Tickets will also be available at the door beginning at 6:30pm on game night. Patton Middle School only holds 500 spectators, so fans are encouraged to arrive early to guarantee a seat. General Manager Eric Bailey—“We’re hoping to sell out on Thursday. We believe this will be a very exciting game against an international opponent—something historic for the county. We can’t wait to show our new fans an exciting, high scoring brand of basketball.”

**New Website:** The HighFlyers announce the launching of a brand new website, [www.highflyersbasketball.com](http://www.highflyersbasketball.com), which will compliment the HighFlyers official IBL webpage, which can be found by going to [www.yamhillhighflyers.com](http://www.yamhillhighflyers.com)

**Radio deal:** The franchise recently inked a radio deal with KLYC 1260AM to broadcast two games this year. Both the station and the team look forward to a long-term partnership, which will feature several more games broadcast next year.

**New Sponsors:** The HighFlyers are happy to announce that IDream Media Group of Newberg, a website development company, and Cascade Pest Control of McMinnville have both recently signed on as brand new Bronze Level Sponsors. “These new Bronze Sponsors will be crucial to our success. Each of them are leaders in their respective industries, and we couldn’t be happier to have them on board,” said GM Bailey. The McMinnville Chamber of Commerce has also signed on as Bronze Sponsor. Moreover, Farmers Insurance has moved up from the Bronze level to the Gold Sponsorship Level, thanks to agents Bob Lysaker and Jeff Carl, both of McMinnville. Lysaker’s office is located in downtown, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, while Carl’s office is in the North end of town, just off HWY99. “We believe this is the beginning of a great partnership between Farmers and the HighFlyers. Both Bob and Jeff have been wonderful, and along with Aaron Dunn (Tillamook), we are happy to announce that they are the HighFlyers exclusive insurance industry sponsor,” said Bailey.

**New Players:** The team is excited to announce several new players, filling out the roster for the 2009 campaign. Among them is 6’9” Forward/Center Jason Hartford. Hartford is fresh off a full season in Finland where he was one of the league’s most prolific scorers. He graduated from Cornell where he lead the team to the NCAA tournament in his senior year. So far through two road games this year, Hartford is averaging 28 points and 13 rebounds as he is sizing up to be one of the stars for the first year franchise. General Manager Eric Bailey—“Hartford is extremely entertaining to watch. He has the complete game. He can score from inside as well as outside, has great court vision, and is a solid rebounder and defender.” The team has also added Dayton native Jon Hildebrandt, an exciting point guard with unmatched dribbling skills. Hildebrandt will start the season on the injured reserve (ankle). Other new players include: Garrett Schmidt, a 6’11” center out of Urbana College, Marc Jackson, a 6’6” forward out of North Carolina Wesleyan College, and Andy Baldwin, a 6’5” guard who is a local product from Linfield.



High Flyers forward Jason Hartford warms up for a game against the Central Oregon Hotshots on May 16<sup>th</sup> in Warm Springs, Oregon



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## ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

**Portland, OR**—the 2009 International Basketball League season is in its fifth season.

Two unique features have distinguished the IBL from other minor professional basketball leagues-

**Feature #1: an entertaining fast paced game-** three rules speed up the game: **1)** the basketball being immediately inbounded, **2)** teams only allowed one timeout per twelve-minute quarter, and **3)** a 22-second shot clock. The result is that IBL teams average 127 points per game.

**Feature #2: extremely low travel costs-** a basketball team has to make financial sense for an owner, so the IBL created the 'one flight guarantee' to reduce costs. The IBL recruits teams in geographical clusters; a 'cluster' is defined as two to three teams within driving distance—with the result of these clusters being a schedule with tremendous variety—opponents from all over the nation (and world) but with owners only having to fly one time per year.

**Additional feature: Asian expansion/international play-** the International Basketball League began its campaign in 2007 to expand into several Asian markets including China, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines. In the two years following the stated goal, four IBL teams went to China and multiple Asian teams have played in America; one team (Shanxi Zhongyu) even played a regular season within the IBL 2008 season. And in 2009 a team from Japan (Nippon Tornados) will play an official season in the IBL as well. The IBL is uniquely able to accommodate a team from Asia—the IBL has several teams all within a few hour driving distance of Portland, Oregon, so when an Asian team joins the IBL, they can locate in Oregon and play all of their games out of one location (an Oregon basketball facility east of Springfield, Oregon called the United States Basketball Academy).

**Additional feature: Player development-** the fast paced play of the IBL produced great players who would then leave the IBL to go overseas after the season expired. IBL players are international in their destinations; after the 2007 IBL season, **102** IBL players went on to play overseas; that 2007 season established the IBL as the league to participate in for players to **get** an overseas job and/or for players to maintain an overseas job.

**Other highlights from the IBL-** ten Asian teams have exchanged games with the International Basketball League. Fifteen former NBA players have appeared in the IBL including former NBA All Stars Tim Hardaway, Dennis Rodman and Shawn Kemp. Two former NBA all stars have coached in the IBL—Terry Mills (full season) and Slick Watts (All Star game). An impressive attendance was garnered at an IBL game played in 2006 in Portland Oregon (at the Rose Garden) where 4,400 fans watched the Portland Chinooks beat the Vancouver Volcanoes—video available on the IBL web site; a year later, that attendance record was eclipsed when 6,000 fans saw the Elkhart Express (IN) beat the Grand Rapids Flight (MI)—that video can be found at (<http://www.iblhoopsonline.com/teamGrandRapids.asp>).

For more info, photos & videos about IBL teams and/or the IBL, visit [www.iblhoopsonline.com](http://www.iblhoopsonline.com)

**Pictured:** Byron Russell, Tim Hardaway & Dennis Rodman—3 of the 15 former NBA players to have played in the IBL

