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## **INTERNATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE WELCOMES NEWEST TEAM ON FRIDAY—THE YAMHILL HIGH FLYERS**

**KICK OFF/NEWS CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE FRIDAY APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 3:00PM IN MCMINNVILLE**

**McMinnville, Oregon—the IBL welcomes its newest team—the Yamhill High Flyers.** The Yamhill High Flyers are Yamhill County's first sports franchise. The team will bring high quality basketball at an affordable price. General Manager Eric Bailey—"We're very excited to be Yamhill County's first sports franchise and to be the newest members of the International Basketball League".

**High Flyers Kickoff News Conference:** The High Flyers will officially introduce the franchise to the Yamhill County community this Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm at McMinnville's City Park. The public is welcome to attend. Those that want to volunteer for the team or sponsor, or in any way—help with this team/effort should attend. The news conference will feature Eric Bailey—the owner discussing the team and the team's vision. IBL Commissioner Mikal Duilio will be present as well. The specific location of the press conference will be in front of the fountain, between the Library and the Aquatic Center, near Adams St. (HWY 99). The event will also feature McMinnville Mayor Rick Olson as well as other community and civic leaders. All members of the media are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**High Flyers ownership:** The High Flyers are owned and operated by YHF Entertainment, LLC. YHF Entertainment is an Oregon entertainment company with four owners—GM Eric Bailey, Greg Levinson, Erik Abel & Kevin Bailey.

**2009 Inaugural season sponsors:** certain local businesses have embraced the High Flyers in this inaugural season; those businesses deserve credit since without them, the team would not be possible. At the Gold level of sponsorship is the **Comfort Inn & Suites** in McMinnville, Oregon. At the Silver level of sponsorship, there are commitments from the **Valley View Retirement Community** and the **Corvallis Mortgage Company**. The High Flyers have also welcomed **Farmer's Insurance**, **V2 Family Dentistry**, **Copy Cats Northwest** and **The Photo Treehouse** who have all come aboard at the Bronze level of sponsorship.

**About the 2009 Interim Head Coach and Players:** Terrence Burns will serve as the Yamhill High Flyers 2009 Interim Head Coach. Burns was a star athlete at Portland's Benson High School who then went on to be a two-sport athlete in football and basketball at Portland State University. Burns son, Nick, is currently a starting point guard for West Texas University. The High Flyers will feature a roster, like the IBL itself, with players from all over the country and beyond. Chris Hunt (UC Davis/Occidental) and Quentin Demeritte (Bahaman National Team veteran) are both expected to suit up for the High Flyers in 2009. Several players will be on hand at the press conference on Friday.

**2009 team slogan and official webpage:** The official slogan for the High Flyers 2009 campaign is "**Yamhill vs. the World**". The slogan reflects the truly international nature of the High Flyers schedule, including games against teams from China, Japan, and Canada. The High Flyers feature an official IBL webpage at [www.IBLhoopsOnline.com](http://www.IBLhoopsOnline.com)

**Schedule:** see full description of schedule on the following page-

### 2009 High Flyers 4-game schedule:

Tuesday	May 26th 3:00pm	<b>Yamhill High Flyers</b>	@ China-Shanxi Zhongyu	(Neutral site game in Portland)
Thursday	May 28th 7:15pm	Japan Nippon Tornadoes	@ <b>Yamhill High Flyers</b>	(Patton Middle School)
Friday	June 26th 7:15pm	Vancouver BC Titans	@ <b>Yamhill High Flyers</b>	(Patton Middle School)
Sunday	June 28th 7:15pm	<b>Yamhill High Flyers</b>	@ Snohomish Explosion	(Monroe H.S. Washington)

The IBL will establish its international brand right away—in that both home opponents are truly international—the Nippon Tornadoes from Japan and the Vancouver (British Columbia) Titans. The IBL hopes that Yamhill country sees not only international play, but also a high level of talent and the family fun side of the IBL—at these two home games.

**About the Yamhill High Flyers 2009 schedule being only 4 games:** A normal team playing in the IBL—plays a 20 game schedule. The Yamhill High Flyers will play 4 games—2 home and 2 away games—in their inaugural season. Although each of the 4 games listed above counts as an official IBL game, the Yamhill High Flyers will not compete for the overall IBL Championship in 2009, as 2009 is their ‘branding year’. A branding year is the entry method for new teams in the IBL in which they play a few games to learn the industry and to learn how to promote. The High Flyers were officially accepted in the IBL but they must go through this first year process; the reason for the branding year restated is that being a minor league basketball team owner is complex in that the owner handles media relations, promotions, and sales, partnerships, venues, agreements, contracts, business operations and basketball operations. And the owner does all of this in an efficient manner relying on a lot of volunteerism and community support. New team owners need to gain experience before they get going with a full 20-game season; otherwise historically—it (owning a minor league team) can be too much to handle. IBL Commissioner Mikal Duilio “it is a lot of fun, a lot of work but we need the people of Yamhill county to step up and make this a great team that the community can be proud of”.

**High Flyers 2009 home venue:** Both of the High Flyers 2009 home games will be played at Patton Middle School, located at the corner of NE 19<sup>th</sup> and NE McDonald, one block south of HWY 99 in McMinnville, Oregon. The venue holds about 500 spectators. While the 2009 season has only two home games both in McMinnville, Bailey wants the High Flyers to be “a team that all of Yamhill County—from Newberg to Sheridan—can rally around and support”. In fact, in 2010 and beyond, games should be played in communities throughout Yamhill County (not just McMinnville).

**Ticket prices for 2009 home games:** Tickets will be \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (62+), and \$4 for children (17 & under) and \$4 for college students with ID. Advance tickets will be available through **Ticketswest**—online at ticketswest.com or in person at the **McMinnville Safeway**. There will also be a “VIP/Private Party” area at High Flyers home games for a group of 10-25spectators. Groups interested in this area should contact General Manager Eric Bailey directly via e-mail at [ericbailey@ymail.com](mailto:ericbailey@ymail.com)



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## ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

**Portland, OR**—the 2009 International Basketball League season is the league's fifth season.

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

**Feature #1: an entertaining fast paced game-** two rules were and are the following: **1)** the basketball being immediately inbounded and **2)** teams only allowed one timeout per twelve-minute quarter.

**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 Tornadoes) will play an official season in the IBL as well. The IBL is uniquely able to accommodate a team from Asia—because the IBL has ten teams all within a 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. Fourteen 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

