



The Herald - Everett, Wash. - [www.HeraldNet.com](http://www.HeraldNet.com)

Published: Sunday, July 23, 2006

## Explosion copying previous successes

**The team intends to use the success of the AquaSox, Silvertips and Hawks as a guide while preparing to begin play next spring - possibly in the Everett Events Center.**

*By Mike Allende  
Herald Writer*

EVERETT - Jokes about Oklahoma City were flying as freely as promises of community involvement as the Everett Explosion held their first official press conference Saturday afternoon at the Everett Events Center.

Snohomish County's newest minor league team - which will begin play in the International Basketball League next spring - intends to follow the blueprints established by the AquaSox, Silvertips and Hawks to become successful, according to Nathan Mumm, the team's owner/general manager/president. Mumm, a 33-year-old from Marysville, said he wants to follow the Sox's involvement in the community, the Hawks' ability to show that the Events Center can be used for more than just hockey, and the Tips' success in reaching the postseason.

"Everyone has been very successful in the area, which gives us great hope," Mumm said.

Mumm used the press conference to announce a 12-person ownership group - all of whom are from the Snohomish, King and Pierce County areas - and the team's intention to play their 10-game home schedule in the Events Center. However a deal has not entirely been reached with the venue yet. The team must show the ability to sell tickets before the Events Center will commit to hosting the team.

"We're still working out the deal," said Kim Bedier, General Manager of the Events Center. "We've come to an agreement, a memorandum of understanding that allows the team to go ahead and see what kind of support they have in the community. ... But we've committed to working with Nathan."

Mumm said he's confident that the club will reach its season-ticket quota and that some season tickets have already been sold, though he would not say how many.

"We want to make sure Snohomish County is ready for basketball," Mumm said. "I'm comfortable that our ticket sales will meet that quota well ahead of time of what we're looking for. I don't expect it to be a problem at all."

As for scheduling the Explosion around the Silvertips and Hawks, Bedier said that the existing tenants would be given priority and that the Explosion would be asked to schedule around them.

Both Bedier and IBL Commissioner Mikal Dulio lauded Mumm's commitment and enthusiasm and expressed the belief that the Explosion will succeed in Everett. Dulio said the Events Center would be the best arena in the league and ranked the club in the "top 25 percent" among teams in the league, in terms of organization.

"He has gotten a lot farther along than I had thought," Dulio said. "He's really pushing this thing well."

"We're thrilled to have them on board," Bedier said. "We think it's going to be an added value for our customers. Over the three years we've been open, we've had a lot of requests for basketball and we're really excited that now those requests can be filled."

Mumm said the team has already had one practice and will hold an open tryout on Nov. 4. He said that five "local products" would be chosen for the 20-man team, 13 of whom will be active each game.

The Explosion have announced just three players who have been signed, however another five are listed on the team's roster on its Web site. Among them are three former members of the Seattle Mountaineers, another IBL team in which Everett coach Randy Redwine served as an assistant last season. They are 6-foot-9 center Barson Collins and 6-6 forwards Justin Murray and Justin Vandenbosch. Also listed are 6-8 guard/forward AJ Stallworth, who played for Central Oregon in the IBL, and former Seattle Pacific guard Ralph Steele.

Mumm said the team has already set up a booth at AquaFest in Lake Stevens and will sponsor two days at the Evergreen State Fair. He said he's encouraged by the enthusiasm he's seen, and intends to continue to keep the team heavily involved in the community.

"We want to be active in the community," Mumm said. "We really want to structure ourselves as the AquaSox have done. We want to go out and meet with the people in the community and build up the interest."