



## Sun Ming Ming arrives in town

Grand Rapids - Standing at 7 feet 9 inches, Sun Ming Ming is the tallest basketball player in professional sports.

Now, he's the newest member of the Grand Rapids Flight.

Ming has only been playing basketball since he was 15. And it's been a struggle. He suffered from a condition called "gigantism," which causes excessive growth. In 2005, he had a brain tumor removed. Ming's coach says he's "not" ready for the NBA, but could be, someday.

Dave Fox of the Grand Rapids Flight says, "He's been working out every day and that's what he's been doing for the last 2 years. [Ming is a] very dedicated, hard worker. He knows what his goal is. He knows that being 7'9" is not going to get him there."

Ming says he would actually like to be a little shorter. He gets a lot of attention because of his height, but he says it can be a annoying at times.

"Maybe one time, it's ok, but some time, a lot of time, it's no good," says Sun Ming.

What is good is the publicity Ming brings to the team.

The International Basketball League is small and relatively unknown.



Sun Ming Ming



Mitch McNeal of "Gus Macker Basketball" says this is great for the community and the league.

McNeal said, "We'll go see a game to see him, and the indirect result might be hey, this is good basketball and interest is generated."

Ming has already started working out with his new team and "they" say he's doing well. They were surprised at how fast he was for his size.

As for Ming, he's just happy to be here. "I don't know what happen in the future. Only play hard, play basketball," says Ming.