



NEWS RELEASE

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Salem Soldiers on with a new look in the IBL

March 3, 2012 – Vancouver, WA – The Salem, Ore., The Salem team will have a new look under new ownership and will participate in the 2012 IBL season.

The Salem Stampede included Price Johnson, who owns The Hoop, a 51,000-square-foot indoor sports facility in Salem with seating for over 500 fans, and will serve as the team's home floor for the 2012 season, located at 3575 Fairview Industrial Drive in Salem. Looking towards the April start time, the Johnson's want to salute our military and Soldier into the IBL with a strong competitive team, therefore have decided to change their name to the Salem Soldiers.

"We wanted to have a strong team name and salute our military, competing as the Salem Soldiers we accomplish that and our sponsors support the initiative. We have already added Jeremiah Dominguez and Phil Nelson from Portland State to the roster this season who will be key players for us; frankly I expect us to win it all," Price Johnson predicted.

With years of experience working with NBA-caliber talent, as Price has served as a special assignments coach for the Milwaukee Bucks under George Karl, even writing a book together, 101 Offensive Basketball Drills, the father son team of Price and James Johnson will be sure to put a competitive product on the floor. Johnson also served in the same role with Nate McMillan and the Portland Trailblazers and has coached many NBA talents from Sam Cassell, Ray Allen to Michael Redd and NBA Champion Jason Terry. For three years he also coached the EA Sports All-Star basketball squad as they toured the country playing exhibitions against collegiate teams.

James Johnson, who is the Director of Operations at The Hoop and will serve as the team's General Manager, played college basketball at Western Carolina University, where he was a teammate of current Houston Rockets guard Kevin Martin. The Salem Stampede previously participated in the 2006 and 2007 IBL seasons, fielding top-notch teams both years. Notable players on the roster during that time included Keizer, Ore., native Grayson Boucher, who is best known as "The Professor" from the AND1 Mixtape streetball tour, and Eric Fiegi, a former Corban College standout that led the IBL in scoring in 2006 and went on to play overseas for several seasons in France, Romania and Hungary. In 2007, Salem finished with the IBL's second-best record at 18-4.

In 2011, the Stampede participated as a member of the National Athletic Basketball League, where they posted a 10-5 record, however the league's instability hampered the team's efforts. Initiatives put in place by new IBL Commissioner Sharleen Graf attracted the organization back to the IBL.

"The return of the Salem to the IBL under the new ownership of two great leaders in the basketball community strengthens our league, adding invaluable experience and community focus. The quality of our teams is vital to ensure we are creating authentic opportunities for our players, coaches and a great fan experience. The Johnsons bring all this and more to the table which will continue the growth, depth and validity of the IBL," the IBL Commissioner stated.

The renewed Salem Soldiers will open the 2012 season on the road against the Bellingham Slam on April 21. The team will make their home debut at The Hoop in Salem on May 12 against the Portland Chinooks. The team's full 20-game schedule, along with news on player additions and community outreach programs, will be announced shortly.

"We are excited to be partnered with the Salem Family YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club. We will also be hosting a number of clinics at elementary schools around Salem this season," commented Johnson when asked about community programs the team will be involved in.

About International Basketball League (IBL)

The International Basketball League (IBL) is a professional sports association based in Vancouver, Wash., that engages high level basketball talent. The league is dedicated to fostering international basketball talent and focuses on providing family friendly events as well as helping players find positions in international leagues such as the BJ League, Basketball Bundesliga (BBL), and the Portuguese Basketball League (LCB). The IBL is in its eighth year of operation with teams across the United States and Canada. To learn more about the International Basketball League visit: www.IBL.com.

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