

HORIZONS BASKETBALL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009



Welcome

Welcome to our free basketball email newsletter. We aim to provide a full coverage of news in our sport:

- Our upcoming basketball tours and opportunities.
- Local and state basketball news.
- National basketball news.
- International basketball news.

Horizons Sporting Events once again enjoyed providing the exciting basketball tours in 2009 for schools and associations across Australia.

High Schools – start planning your tour

Horizons Sporting Events specialises in providing the complete basketball tour package which includes competition against the USA High Schools. Contact Horizons today for a 'no obligation' draft tour proposal to consider further.

Here are the high schools that have toured with Horizons over the last few years:

- Abbotsleigh, Sydney NSW
- Braemar College, Melbourne VIC (2 tours)
- Box Hill Senior Secondary School, Melbourne VIC (2 tours)
- Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane QLD
- Caulfield Grammar School, Melbourne VIC
- Canberra Girls Grammar School, Canberra ACT
- Canberra Grammar School, Canberra ACT (2 tours)
- Eltham College, Melbourne VIC
- Haileybury College, Melbourne VIC (2 tours)
- Knox Grammar School, Sydney NSW
- Newington College, Sydney NSW (2 tours)
- Oakhill College, Sydney NSW
- Radford College, Canberra ACT
- Saint Joseph's College, Nudgee QLD
- Saint Patrick's College, Sydney NSW
- Saint Paul's Grammar, Sydney NSW
- Scotch College, Melbourne VIC (2 tours)
- The Kings School, Sydney NSW
- The Southport School, Southport QLD
- Trinity College, Perth WA (2 tours)
- Waverley College, Sydney NSW



Enjoying the exciting college game



Promotion of the high school game

See the game details, results, itineraries and tour photos (where available) by visiting: <http://www.horizons-sport.com.au/toursfromaustralia/Previous%20Tours.asp>

Now is the ideal time to commence plans for your group to tour the USA. For a draft tour proposal, please contact Horizons Sporting Events on (02) 9594 1881 or (03) 6424 2874 or email enquiry@horizons-sport.com.au

Associations and Clubs – start planning your tour

In addition to exciting school group tours, many associations and clubs take advantage of a sensational USA basketball tour experience.

The list following are the association groups that toured with Horizons over the last few years:

- Brighton Wolves, Melbourne VIC
- Bulleen Boomers, Melbourne VIC
- Corio Bay Stingrays, Geelong VIC
- Craigieburn Eagles, Melbourne VIC
- Frankston Blues, Melbourne VIC (3 tours)
- Hawthorn Magic, Melbourne VIC (2 tours)
- Melbourne Tigers, Melbourne VIC (3 tours)
- Moonee Ponds Mavericks, Melbourne VIC
- Mornington Breakers, Melbourne VIC (2 tours)
- Northern Country NSW
- Perry Lakes Hawks, Perth WA
- Portland Basketball, Portland VIC
- Tuggeranong Vikings, Canberra ACT
- Waverley Falcons, Melbourne VIC
- Whittlesea Pacers, Melbourne VIC (2 tours)



Frankston U/16 boys tour – photo with the cheerleaders

Please call the Horizons office to discuss plans for your USA Tour - (02) 9594 1881 or (03) 6424 2874 or email enquiry@horizons-sport.com.au

Positions Vacant – Travel and Tour Coordinator

Horizons Sporting Events specializes in providing professional inbound and outbound sporting tour experiences for individuals and teams across Australia. Horizons have established themselves as the leader in Basketball tours in Australia and have recently expanded the specialist services to encompass tours for Rugby Union, Soccer and Cricket, as well as servicing a number of other sports.

The position of Travel and Tour Coordinator at Horizons Sporting Events is a full time role based at the company's Head Office in Sydney. The position offers an exciting and challenging opportunity to work with a small dedicated team.

If you would like further information or a Position Description, please phone Michael Edwards on 0407 223 576 or email michael@horizons-sport.com.au

Elite Teams choose Horizons

At the end of this year, Horizons has some exciting talent that will be touring the USA to compete against some of the elite high schools in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina.

The following elite groups will be touring with Horizons this year:

- Country Victoria NITCP
- School Sport Australia
- South Australia Country
- Tasmania NITCP

In addition to these groups, Horizons has also had the pleasure of conducting the tours for:

- Australian Institute of Sport Men
- Deaf Basketball Australia (National Teams)
- New South Wales NITCP (2 tours)
- Northern Territory NITCP
- Queensland NITCP
- South Australia Country
- School Sport Australia (National Teams)
- Tasmania NITCP
- Western Australia NITCP



Marty Handson, Country VIC NITCP – on tour recently

USA Combined Junior Tours 2009/10 – Open to Individual Players

In addition to the tour groups above for school teams and association teams, Horizons Sporting Events also provides opportunities for individual players to join one of our combined group junior tours.

This is our 8th year of conducting these exciting tour experiences. The three combined tour options for the end of this year are non-selective and open to all players.

Texas and California Tour – Sunday 6 December 2009 to Thursday 24 December 2009 (19 days)

- Destinations include Los Angeles and the state of Texas
- The standard of this tour will be very good and will suit association representative players and very good school players. The teams will compete in a series of tour games against high school teams.
- Teams offered are Varsity Boys (18 and under), Varsity Girls (18 and under), Junior Varsity Boys (16 and under) and Junior Varsity Girls (16 and under).
- \$5,000 per person. Includes airfares, accommodation, ground transport, officials and tour leaders, basketball competition, training, tour clothing, basketball uniforms, some meals.

North Carolina and South Carolina Tour – Sunday 27 December 2009 to Thursday 14 January 2010 (19 days)

- Destinations include Los Angeles and the states of North Carolina and South Carolina
- The standard of this tour will be very good and will suit association representative players and very good school players. The teams will compete in a series of tour games against high school teams.
- Teams offered are Varsity Boys (18 and under), Varsity Girls (18 and under), Junior Varsity Boys (16 and under) and Junior Varsity Girls (16 and under).
- \$5,200 per person. Includes airfares, accommodation, ground transport, officials and tour leaders, basketball competition, training, tour clothing, basketball uniforms, some meals.

North West USA and Hawaii Tour – Sunday 27 December 2009 to Thursday 14 January 2010 (19 Days)

- Destinations include Honolulu and the states of Washington and Oregon
- The standard of this tour will be moderate and will suit school players and low level representative players. The teams will compete in a series of tour games against high school teams.
- Teams offered are Varsity Boys (18 and under), Varsity Girls (18 and under), Junior Varsity Boys (16 and under) and Junior Varsity Girls (16 and under).
- \$5,200 per person. Includes airfares, accommodation, ground transport, officials and tour leaders, basketball competition, training, tour clothing, basketball uniforms, some meals.

Some of the highlights from these tours include:

- Great hosting from the USA High Schools.
- Exciting competition with good crowds, media support and the fantastic USA experience.
- Exposure for scholarship opportunities.
- Cultural opportunities. Eg. Attending class in a USA High School, after match functions with the hosts, etc.
- Tours will include an NBA game and a College Basketball game.
- Other attractions, such as Disneyland and Universal Studios, will be included in the tour itineraries.

For more information or to receive an Information Pack on any of these tours, please contact Horizons Sporting Events on (02) 9594 1881 or (03) 6424 2874 or email enquiry@horizons-sport.com.au



Factory outlet shopping



Attending the college game



Cheerleaders add to the spectacle

USA Combined Junior Tours 2009/10 – Coaching Subsidies

Coaching applications are now open to join our USA Combined Junior Tours 2009/10.

Horizons Sporting Events subsidises the coaching positions for each of these tours. Over the past seven years, we have had an excellent response with our coaches enjoying a great basketball experience.

For more information on our subsidised coaching positions, please contact Horizons Sporting Events on (02) 9594 1881 or (03) 6424 2874 or email enquiry@horizons-sport.com.au



HSE Koalas after the game in North Carolina

Horizon's Combined Group Tour to New Zealand – Easter 2010

Our New Zealand tour to the Easter tournament has just returned last week from another exciting trip. Our boys and girls team competed in the Easter Basketball Classic in Rotorua as well as a series of games in Hamilton and Auckland.

Individuals are invited to join our tour group planned for the North Island of New Zealand during the Easter school holidays in 2010.

- 11 day tour includes competition and sightseeing in Auckland, Hamilton and Rotorua.
- Competition throughout each destination, plus tournament in Rotorua.
- Standard of this tour is moderate and will suit school players and representative players.
- Teams offered are: Under 18 Boys and Girls, Under 16 Boys and Girls, Under 14 Boys and Girls.
- Package includes airfares, accommodation, ground transport, officials and tour leaders, basketball competition, training, tour clothing, basketball uniforms, all attractions and some meals.

For further information, please call the Horizons office - (02) 9594 1881 or (03) 6424 2874 or email enquiry@horizons-sport.com.au

Euro News

Lauren Jackson wins second straight EuroLeague title

Spartak defeated Spanish side Halcon Avenida 85-70 on Sunday to take the club's third consecutive title. Jackson defeated fellow Opal Penny Taylor's UMMC Ekaterinberg 83-74 in the Semi Final on Friday to advance to the decider. Jackson posted 11 points against Ekaterinberg in the semi but lifted her game for 13 points in the final, also grabbing five rebounds and three steals. Taylor posted seven points in her team's loss.

Opals squad member Kathleen MacLeod made the Semi Finals with her Hungarian team MKB Euroleasing Sopron but fell to Avenida. MacLeod played 34 minutes in the semi for 13 points, four assists and two rebounds but couldn't get her team over the line.

Anderson Reaches Final Four

David Andersen became the first player to reach the Final Four with four different teams - Kinder Bologna, Montepaschi Siena, CSKA Moscow and now, Barcelona. Anderson will meet his former team and defending champion CSKA in one semi final and the second semi final it will be an all Greek affair with Panathanaikos taking on Olympiacos. The final four commences from May 1st to 3rd in Berlin.

Other European news, Boomers Captain Matt Nielsen has been named in the All-Eurocup Second Team following his successful move from Lithuania to Spain. Nielsen, a two-time Olympian and former National Basketball League Most Valuable Player, left Lithuanian club side Lietuvos Rytas late last year to join Pamesa Valencia in Spain and has enjoyed great success since. He has averaged 10.6 points, 4.4 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1 block per game over 10 games in the Eurocup, a multinational club competition that runs as a second tier under the EuroLeague.

Boomers and Opals

Brett Brown named Boomers coach

Former North Melbourne Giants and Sydney Kings leader Brett Brown has been selected as Head Coach of Australia's men's basketball team, the Boomers, through to London 2012. Brown has been an Assistant Coach with the famed San Antonio Spurs in the NBA for the past six years and has extensive experience with the Boomers program and the National Basketball League. Brown's first major test will come in August when the Boomers take on New Zealand at the 2009 FIBA Oceania Championship.

Patrick Mills declares for NBA draft

Australian Boomer and Saint Mary's College guard Patrick Mills will make himself available for the NBA draft, possibly giving up the final two years of college basketball eligibility. The NBA Draft will take place on the 25th of June in Madison Square Garden, the home of the New York Knicks. Mills stated he would not be hiring an agent however, leaving him with the opportunity to pull out of contention prior to the deadline on the 15th of June. The 30 players chosen in the first round of the draft are guaranteed three-year contracts and Mills has been predicted by numerous draft experts to go anywhere from late in the first round to the late second round.

Opals 2009 campaign tips off

New Head Coach Carrie Graf took charge of the women's national team reins for the first time as the Australian-based Opals entered their first four-day camp of the year. Despite superstars Lauren Jackson and Penny Taylor being notable absentees, Graf took her first steps toward an elusive Olympic gold medal. The Opals will tour China and Europe later this year before playing two world championship qualifying matches against New Zealand in September.

Opals Team for China Series

Alicia Poto, Kathleen MacLeod, Rohanee Cox, Abby Bishop, Elyse Penaluna, Samantha Richards, Carly Wilson, Liz Cambage, Marianna Tolo (pictured), Eva Afeaki, Deanna Smith, Emma Randall.

College Basketball

UNC Tar Heels Win National Championship

The University of North Carolina Tar Heels defeated the Michigan State University Spartans 89 - 72 to win the 2009 NCAA Men's College basketball final in front of 72,922 fans at Ford Field in Detroit, Mich. The win marked the Tar Heels' second National Championship in six years. Led by senior forward Tyler Hansborough and junior guard Ty Lawson, UNC jumped out to a 17 - 7 lead in the first four and a half minutes of the game and never looked back, concluding a dominant run through the Men's NCAA Tournament.

Uconn Women Win National Championship

Connecticut Huskies are the unbeaten champions of women's NCAA college basketball. UConn beat Louisville 76-54 in the national title game Tuesday night in St. Louis. The Huskies' victory capped the most dominant season in women's basketball history.

NBL & WNBL News

- Head Coach Conner Henry has been released by the Perth Wildcats
- Tom Maher to coach Bulleen Boomers
- Canberra Capitals have announced they have re-signed forward Abby Bishop for one more season.
- Rob Beveridge leads world team to victory over Team USA at the Nike Hoops summit in Portland, Oregon.
- Carrie Graf re-signs with Canberra Capitals
- Andrew Gaze has admitted it is "highly unlikely" that teams from Brisbane and Sydney would be part of a proposed 2009-2010 national competition
- Larry Sengstock named the new Chief Executive Officer for Basketball Australia

2009 NBA Playoff Schedule

Western Conference

No. 1 LA Lakers vs. No. 8 Utah
No. 2 Denver vs. No. 7 New Orleans
No. 3 San Antonio vs. No. 6 Dallas
No. 4 Portland vs. No. 5 Houston

Eastern Conference

No. 1 Cleveland vs. No. 8 Detroit
No. 2 Boston vs. No. 7 Chicago
No. 3 Orlando vs. No. 6 Philadelphia
No. 4 Atlanta vs. No. 5 Miami
