



## NEWS ADVISORY

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### Vancouver Volcanoes Training Camp Explodes with Talent

**April 3, 2013 – Vancouver, WA** – Volcanoes fans have a lot to look forward to this season on and off the court, but with training camp starting April 3<sup>rd</sup> right now the spotlight is on the talent that will be defending home court.

Celebrating nine seasons in the International Basketball League (IBL) there will be some familiar faces in town this week as the Volcanoes begin training camp with their eyes on another championship ring. Returners from the 2012 roster include the league's Most Valuable Player and IBL All Star 6'2" G Andre Murray, fellow IBL All Star 6'7" F Alex Hartman, 6'3" G Josh Tarver, 6'10" F Alex Tiefenthaler, 6'9" C JR Moore, and 6'5" F Tyson Christie.

"I am excited to return to the IBL for the fourth year" said veteran point guard Andre Murray, "all of them as a Volcano. We are also adding new teammates who will strengthen our full core, from starters to the bench. The coaches worked hard during the off-season to bring together the kind of talent you usually don't get, all on one team. For us, it's the championship or bust, and this helps solidify our chances. Bellingham Slam, who won the league in 2012, will return with a solid core of guys and will challenge us. Portland Chinooks is also always a great competitor as there is a lot of talent coming out of their area. "Winning cures everything" Murray continues, and our General Manager Bryan Hunter and Vice President Clay Bonds, together bring the community out, and the fan support means a lot to us. I've seen the league grow so much over the years and my goal is to lead the Volcanoes as best I can, following Coach Navarro's direction. I like the competition" Murray said, "and I look forward to facing off with the new teams from California and Texas. They are good States for hoop talent,"

Some may say the Volcanoes are stacking the deck, but if the Miami Heat can do it at their level, then it can happen at any level. With a league policy of free agency, where any player can talk to any team, with limits on the number of teams they compete for within a season, and specific eligibility rules for the playoffs, the Vancouver Volcanoes are taking full advantage of the tools available. Two former players who have found their home with the Volcanoes and are coming out of retirement, are 6'8" Forward Jake Carlisle, and 2012 Assistant Coach, 6'5" Forward Kevin "Pip" Bloodsaw. Both are returning to the court from the 2011 IBL Championship roster for the Volcanoes in 2013. Carlisle was the 2011 MVP for the tournament playoff games.

"To me, it feels like we are defending our title this year" exclaimed Bloodsaw. "Fans, friends and family would ask me last year why I wasn't playing. It was their encouragement and support that gave me the nudge I needed to return to the court." Commonly called 'Pip' for his likeness to Scottie Pippen, it could be said he is pulling an MJ by coming out of retirement, returning back to the court from coaching. The All-Time leading scorer in the IBL with 9 years in the league could not pass up the opportunity to play with Carlisle again. "Although coaching was a good learning experience at this level, I'd played for 10 straight years, and being so close to the game, I found there was still an itch that needed to be scratched. I shared my thinking with Coach Navarro and he told me he would take me back anytime. I have been working out to get back in shape, and I will be game-ready. The last time I was on the court, I was a champion. I want to be part of the team to bring home another championship to Vancouver. My personal goal is to be the IBL Defensive player of the year for 2013," Pip boldly declared.

The Volcanoes players want to see fans cheering their hearts out as they meet new additions, although familiar faces to the IBL, 2012 IBL such as All Stars 7'0" Center Gjo Bain, 6'4" Guard Paul Hafford, and 6'4" Guard Mike Ward, who was also a Summer Pro League (SPL) All Star in Los Angeles. However, the spotlight will be on 2012 IBL Rookie of the Year, IBL All Star, Summer Pro League (SPL) All Star, Forward Chehales Tapscott 6'5", another Portland State University product. Tapscott signed to the NBA D-League this fall, currently averaging 22.8 ppg and 10.8 rpg in Luxembourg for Soleuvre. Not to be overlooked will be the return of 6'10" Forward Daniel Dean to the court from the Oregon State Beavers, playing with fellow OSU alumni, Josh Tarver, now as a pro.

"This is a much different Volcanoes training camp than last year", said head coach Joe Navarro, "because of so many returning players from the Championship team of 2011. Returning with our core group of guys is important. A healthy Josh

Tarver with returning MVP Andre Murray brings our championship backcourt back together. We also have some really strong additions at almost every position. Jake Carlisle's returning leadership role on the inside is a real plus. He's almost like having a point guard on the block. His experience with the Spurs and working in Pop's schemes really helps us execute," Navarro shared, "and we've got a lot of new players in camp with some great credentials."

"Anytime you can add a guy that averages 28 points and 12 rebounds to your line up, as a coach, you get pretty excited, and that's exactly what we did with Chehales Tapscott", said Coach Navarro. "He can score in so many different ways, and he's relentless on the boards. Getting Paul Hafford is also a huge bonus for us. I didn't know how versatile he is until I got to coach him in the SPL (Summer Pro League). He can play 3 positions and nobody has range like him. Then we added Gjo Bain, a true 7-footer who can really run. I think he was the best post defender in the league last year and we can really go up tempo with him. "Also, getting Mike Ward from Olympia just solidifies our backcourt" Navarro continued. "Mike is a natural combo guard who fits in my coaching system perfectly. He can play next to Tarver or Dre and Alex Hartman very easily and we can go small and play three of them." Navarro plans to utilize the talent he has on the roster this season to win the title, but this time as a head coach. "We are a very deep team and, hopefully all these pieces will come together by the start of the season."

Tipping off their season in Bellingham, WA April 19<sup>th</sup> where they have never defeated The Slam, the 2011 IBL Champion Vancouver Volcanoes will face the 2012 IBL Champion Bellingham Slam in what's been referred to as the "Championship Challenge." The game will take place at Whatcom Pavilion. The Volcanoes first home game will be a Fan Fest on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm in the O'Connell Sports Complex at Clark College for an early season re-match against the Slam. This will be the only time Vancouver will host the 2012 Champions and is a must win on their home court. "It's always good to play the defending champions early in the season" said Coach Navarro, "just to get a gauge on where our team is. The Slam's Head Coach Ridnour always does such a great job with their execution, it will be a good test for our defense."

The home opener for the Vancouver Volcanoes is described as the "Battle of the Bridges" with tipoff at 7:00 pm, April 27 against the Portland Chinooks. As the host for their first game facing the Chinooks this season, Head Coach Joe Navarro shared: "Portland always presents a match-up problem with their size and ability to shoot the ball on the perimeter. "Most of their players can play multiple positions so it's difficult to stay with one defensive scheme for very long, Navarro continued. "These two rosters know each other very well, and it's turned into a bit of a rivalry with the players,"

## **RUNNING STRONG**

The Volcanoes 2013 season schedule is available at [www.ibl.com/schedule](http://www.ibl.com/schedule) and tickets are available at [http://www.ibl.com/vancouver\\_volcanoes/tickets](http://www.ibl.com/vancouver_volcanoes/tickets)

### **About Vancouver Volcanoes**

The Vancouver Volcanoes bring professional sports and entertainment to Clark County residents in a family friendly environment, with activities for kids, contests for fans, exciting high scoring action and fun for everyone, starting a new cherished family tradition. We put the dream into the team as a vehicle to help the young players, dancers and interns work toward and achieve their dreams, giving back to the community by providing a venue to help showcase local organizations and talent.

### **About International Basketball League (IBL)**

The International Basketball League (IBL), based in Vancouver, Washington, USA, is an efficient men's professional basketball league heading into our ninth season. The IBL engages high level athletes, coaches and business professionals, dedicated to fostering international basketball talent and focused on providing family friendly sports entertainment value for fans in great communities. Our full season and branding teams have spanned North America with International Tour Teams who participate in our high level competition from late April until early July just as the NBA Development League and many overseas leagues are winding down attracting first-class athletes. IBL teams play in quality venues with unique on-court rules which create a fast-paced, high scoring, exciting game. Players move into positions with the NBA Development League (D League) as well as international leagues overseas such as our partner the Basketball Japan League (BJL), Chinese Basketball Association (CBA), South East Australian Basketball League (SEABL), Basketball Bundesliga (BBL), Portuguese Basketball League (LCB) and many more.

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