



CAMOSUN COLLEGE

CHARGERS NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2012

Chargers basketball pre-season begins

Friday will mark the beginning of a very busy weekend for the Camosun College basketball student-athletes and coaches who will be kicking off their preseason with their annual Chargers Tip-Off Dinner and Auction Fundraiser, Coaches' Clinic and Alumni Games.

The action starts Friday (September 28) as the teams host the Chargers' sixth annual Tip-Off Dinner and Auction Fundraiser at the Harbour Towers Hotel. Tickets are still available for the event which features special guest, Julianne Zussmann, veteran member of the world's number-one ranked Canadian National Women's Rugby Team and Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics hopeful.

"The annual Camosun College Chargers Tip-Off Dinner has become a major event for both the men's and women's programs in terms of exposure and fundraising," commented Chargers women's basketball Head Coach Brett Westcott. "The funds raised from this event go toward our student-athlete scholarship fund so the event is extremely important for all the people involved because it directly helps our student athletes to be able to attend school and to play competitive athletics at the same time. The event puts our student-athletes out front and it helps the people attending see who they're supporting and how their money makes an impact."

The event will be emceed by sports aficionados Jordan Cunningham from CTV2 Vancouver Island News and CFX 1070's Steve Duffy. Guests will be provided with a sumptuous buffet dinner and the chance to bid on an array of luxury, vacation and sport collection items up for auction. Cost is \$150 per ticket (includes \$75 tax receipt) with proceeds going towards student-athlete scholarships.

On Saturday, the Chargers will host two FREE events for the community at the Pacific Institute of Sport Excellence.

In the morning, the teams will host their annual Coaches' Clinic which begins at 10am and is open to all elementary, middle and high school coaches. The clinic is free to all coaches and runs 10am-12noon.

"The Coaches' Clinic is an opportunity for our program to give back to the community and hopefully be able to impact a wide range of coaches at a variety of levels in our local basketball community," said Coach Westcott. "We want them to see our student athletes in a practice situation so they can see the drills and we try to give them some simple drills and ideas they can take back to their teams to use during their season. The clinic has been well-received in previous years and we hope it will be successful again this year."

On Saturday evening, everyone is invited to drop into PISE to cheer on their favorite team as the Chargers and Alumni battle the backboards for bragging rights (Women 6pm; Men 8pm). The Chargers expect to see an impressive turnout of former Camosun College hoop stars including **Carmen Laphorne, Kate Carlson, Teresa Hartrick, Jillian Proudfoot, Greg Wallis, Jeff Spoor, Blake Mansbridge** and **Marek Downarowicz**.

"Our annual Alumni game provides us with the opportunity to play a competitive game before we start our college exhibition game schedule," said Coach Westcott. "We also get a chance to touch base and renew contact with former members of our program which is why we get such a large turnout of Alumni wanting to play every year. This year, we had to cap the roster at 15 players. They also want to come back and beat the present Chargers team so it becomes a pretty competitive match once the game starts."

To support the Chargers and purchase your last minute Tip-Off Dinner tickets or to find out more about this weekend's events, please contact Chargers Women's Basketball Head Coach Brett Westcott at Westcott@shaw.ca or 250-388-9807.

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