

CAMOSUN COLLEGE CHARGERS

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Chargers face defending PACWEST basketball women's champs and No. 1 men's squad in second-half openers

The Camosun College Chargers basketball teams will be put to the test this Friday as they kick off the second half of the PACWEST season against the formidable Capilano University Blues.

The games will be a good test for both Chargers teams. On the women's side, the Chargers face the defending PACWEST champions – a daunting task for any team in the league, and with no exception for the home team which slipped to No. 6 in the PACWEST standings with a 3-3 record.

"Capilano is the defending champion in our league for a reason," commented Chargers Head Coach Brett Westcott. "They are deep, athletic and they play hard. They are difficult to prepare to play against because they have so many different weapons which can create problems. They also have perhaps the best individual player in our league in Jenna Ralston who is a matchup nightmare with her size, skills and high basketball IQ. We will have to play well just to be competitive with them."

The Chargers men will also have to bring their best game forward on Friday as they take on the PACWEST's No. 1 team. Ranked second nationally, the Blues are notorious for overwhelming their opponents with their experience and energy.

"Capilano is an extremely aggressive team," commented Head Coach Craig Price. "They like to run in transition, penetrate and shoot the three. They also crash the boards very hard. We will have to be gritty and commit to our game plan if we want to win."

Following Friday night's match-up, the Chargers will tip-off against the Quest University Kermodes from Squamish on Saturday. The Quest women are No. 4 in the league with a 4-2 record. The men have yet to win a game after six contests and sit in ninth place.

"Quest is similar to Capilano in a lot of ways," said Coach Westcott. "They are deep, athletic and shoot the ball extremely well. They have size and the play well together as a group. We will have to defend their perimeter game and try to stop their transition game if we hope to have any type of chance to steal a game from them."

Catch the action as PACWEST basketball returns to the hardwood at the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence.

Fri, Jan. 13 Camosun vs. Capilano University Blues Women 6pm; Men 8pm Sat, Jan. 14 Camosun vs. Quest University Kermodes Women 1pm; Men 3pm