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2013 NABI Basketball Tournament to Host 128 Teams New Zealand and Canadian Tribal teams to be represented

The NABI Foundation, known for organizing high profile sporting events for Native American athletes, will host 128 teams (64 boys & 64 girls' teams) for their 11TH Anniversary NABI Invitational taking place this July in Phoenix.

For years the tournament has attracted teams representing tribes from all across the US and for the past few years teams from our neighbors up North, but this year will be the first year the Maori from New Zealand will represent their indigenous people, with the hopes of bringing home the NABI Championship trophy.

“Coach Nardi Leonard is excited about bringing his team to Phoenix and competing in our tournament. Having the Maori team come is going to be an honor and an experience not only for their team, but for all our youth. I guess NABI is now officially global!?” says GinaMarie Scarpa, NABI Foundation CEO.

NABI, co-founded by Mark West of the Phoenix Suns, the late Scott Podleski and GinaMarie Scarpa started out as a small local tournament in 2003 and since has become a youth non-profit organizing one of the largest all Native American tournaments; bringing exposure to thousands of Native American High School athletes from all over North America.

Tex G. Hall, former President of NCIA and Chairman of MHA Nation says “NABI is the BEST all Native high school tournament! Anthony Brown/Cheyenne Arapaho a NABI Alumni went on to play for the CBA/Spain, NABI Alumni Angel Goodrich went on to play for Kansas and with Shoni & Jude Schimmel being the first Native athletes to play in the NCAA Final Four, tournaments like NABI are needed to continue to showcase just how talented our youth are and how they are impacting playing in college and pro-sports.”

Since its inception, NABI is directly responsible for encouraging the NCAA to change their “same state” rule to allow Native American tournaments to become sanctioned NCAA summer tournaments, thus allowing NABI to become the first all Native American tournament certified by the NCAA. To date NABI has created over 75 college athletic scholarships opportunities for student athletes who participated in the tournament and has also awarded over \$100,000 in college scholarships to NABI alumni.

Along with a record number of teams descending on Phoenix July 17-21; Ak-Chin Indian Community, Nike N7 and Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe will be the presenting sponsors of this prestige tournament. Games will be played in ten Phoenix area gyms starting on Thursday July 18th with the NABI Championship games being played at US Airways Center, Sunday July 21st. Registration closes May 1st.

Other sponsors of the NABI event include: Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury, Arizona Diamondbacks, US Airways Center, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, National Indian Gaming Association and Bank of America.

NABI.....for the advancement of Native American Athletes!

For more information about the NABI Invitational and the NABI Foundation, log on to the NABI official website www.nabifoundation.org or contact info@nabifoundation.org

NABI Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) youth non- profit. Tax ID #43-1967299

*******www.NABIFoundation.org*******