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## **92 ALL NATIVE AMERICAN BASKETBALL TEAMS COMING TO PHOENIX**

**NABI BREAKS RECORD FOR JULY TOURNAMENT**

The NABI Foundation, known for bringing high profile sports tournaments to Native American youth, has broken a record with 92 teams participating in the NABI Invitational. This summer tournament represents 45 tribes with teams coming from as far away as Alaska and Canada.

NABI, co-founded by Mark West of the Phoenix Suns, started out as a small local tournament in 2003 and since has become a national known tournament, bringing exposure to Native American High School athletes from all over North America.

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 scholarship opportunities for NABI participating athletes and has awarded over \$75,000 in financial aid.

Along with a record number of teams descending on Phoenix July 5-9; Nike, Nike N7, Ak-Chin Indian Community and Grand Canyon University will once again be the presenting sponsor of this prestige event.

NABI Championship games will once again be played at the US Airways Center Saturday July 9 to include a spectacular slam dunk contest and show put on by Kenny Dobbs. Kenny, a Phoenix resident and enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is considered one of the best slam dunkers in the world. NBA Ironman and former LA Laker AC Green, compares Kenny's dunking talent to that of the great Michael Jordan and Dr. J.

For more information about the NABI Invitational and the NABI Foundation, log on to the NABI official website [www.nabifoundation.org](http://www.nabifoundation.org) or contact [info@nabifoundation.org](mailto:info@nabifoundation.org)

Other sponsors of the NABI event include: Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury, Arizona Diamondbacks, Phoenix Coyotes, US Airways Center, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, National Indian Gaming Association and 21Native.com

All proceeds from this event benefit the NABI Foundation. NABI Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) youth non-profit.  
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\*\*\*\*\*[www.NABIFoundation.org](http://www.NABIFoundation.org)\*\*\*\*\*