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# The Dribbler

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2007

## Rick Torbett Coming to Town

Rick Torbett is probably one of the best teachers of the game of basketball in the world today. He has received honours from prestigious organizations including ESPN and The Atlanta Tip-Off Club—the group that annually presents the James Naismith Awards.

And here is the best part; Guelph Basketball is flying Rick up for a two day, exclusive coaching and skills clinic next month sponsored by Investors Group.

Rick will be in town on Saturday, January 5th to work with Guelph Basketball coaches on player development. On Sunday January 6th he will be working with Phoenix players on shooting techniques and drills.

This is another example of how Guelph Basketball is working to strengthen the club and ultimately the experience the kids get at all levels. Coaching is key!

The Phoenix division has already run several coach-

ing clinics for its coaches and the Hustle division will be scheduling the new NCCP “Community Coach” programs early in 2008.

Last year our guests included Ganon Baker, Mike MacKay, Greg Francis, Chris O'Rourke and Angela Orton. We are pleased to continue in the tradition of offering great opportunities for our players and coaches.

## Phoenix First Annual Tournament

Guelph Basketball will be hosting its first basketball tournament this year. The dates have been set for March 7-9, 2008 and the tournament is well over half filled already. The tournament will host both girls and boys in the Novice through to Major Bantam divisions.

The plan is to make this an annual event

and then build it to include the other age groups as well.

The teams will play at various venues across the city. We will be looking for volunteers to help coordinate each location and run concession stands and scoring tables.

Steve Baker is heading up the organization of this event. He has a small

committee of dedicated people helping him, but if you can lend a hand they can use the extra help. The plan is to grow this tournament each year such that it reaches a level of regional excellence and one that is eagerly anticipated by clubs all across Southern Ontario.



**GUELPH  
BASKETBALL**



# Fund Raising Efforts in Full Swing

The very successful East Side Mario's Coupon Card is again on sale this year. All of the Phoenix players have a book of 10 to sell and lots more if they are able. The \$30 card has a value of over \$250 redeemable at the Guelph Stone Road restaurant. It makes a great Christmas gift. If you need more speak to your coach. If you are looking for some to buy get in touch with any player or coach from the Phoenix

division. Sales of the cards end on January 15<sup>th</sup>. \$20 from each card sold goes directly to Guelph Basketball and is an integral part of our future capital plans for gyms.

The second fundraiser is in the planning stages and will be an exciting event. Swish for the Wish is our own creation and will allow the community and our parents and players to use their basketball shooting skill to raise

funds to support our objectives as well as the objectives of the Guelph Wish Fund For Children. Stay tuned for details.

The third fundraiser is our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Phoenix Basketball Tournament being run on March 7-9, 2008 for all of our teams from Novice to Major Bantam. See the details elsewhere in the newsletter.

## Nash Lovin' the Hustle

It's Steve Nash's first year playing Hustle and from all accounts he is loving it. Well, actually, it is the first year that the Hustle division has adopted the Steve Nash program and everything seems to be going very well.

We have more girls out than last year and the number of boys has remained about the same. The kids are looking and feeling great in the new dry fit jerseys, although there is still the annual challenge of getting the right size for the right player. But all is well and the kids are having a great time.

Another wonderful new addition to the program this year are the "shooting basketballs". These are the appropriate size basketballs for each age group with pre-printed hands right on the balls to indicate where they should be held in order to learn how to shoot properly. Both coaches and kids are



having fun and learning about the right mechanics. Another very cool thing about this year's Hustle "shooting basketball" is that every player will be able to keep one at the end of the season.

The coaches have also got a new coaching manual on CD. It is designed to be age and level specific to make the learning and progression in the game smooth and comfortable.

And speaking of the coaches we have some wonderful volunteers this year. Each coach has been very generous of their time, but even more important is the spirit in which they approach each Saturday. The coaches are communicating a real sense of learning and progression and an appropriate level of competition. Even more important is the emphasis on respect; respect for the game, respect for the equipment as well as respect for other players, the coaches and parents.

One thing no one has forgotten is having fun. There seems to be lots of that every Saturday around the Hustle gymnasiums.

The Christmas break is here now and basketball will recommence on Saturday, January 12th.

*The Hustle Division is thriving with the Nash Program underway.*



**GUELPH  
BASKETBALL**

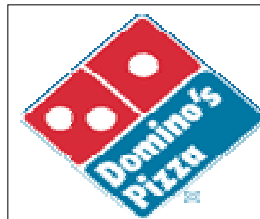


# Support Our Sponsors

Thanks for the continued support of our sponsors, without whom we would not



be able to do all the things we are doing for the players in our community who are playing basketball this season. They donate their time and products to Guelph Basketball and we



encourage everyone to support them like they support us.



## Raptor Day - January 13th

Guelph Basketball is organizing a trip to the Air Canada Centre to see the Toronto Raptors take on the Portland Trailblazers on January 13th.

Arrangements are being made to get tickets and buses for the game. This event is open to players and

their families of both the Phoenix and Hustle division.

The Phoenix division are also tying this trip into its fund raising activities with the East Side Mario's (ESM) coupons. Players will get a free ticket to the event (bus and game) for every 10 coupons they

sell. The 4 teams that sell the most ESM coupons will get to scrimmage on the floor the Raptors play on after the game.

Stay tuned for more details and get set to cheer on the Raptors.

*"The 4 teams that sell the most ESM coupons will get to scrimmage on the floor the Raptors play on after the game."*

## We Have THE Best Volunteers, and we are looking for more

Do you or does someone you know need Community Involvement hours? We need midget to junior boys and girls to volunteer for Guelph Basketball's First Annual Basketball Tournament.

Scorekeepers and Timers are required. The date is March 7, 8 and 9, 2008. Please contact Pam Baker [volunteer@guelphbasketball.com](mailto:volunteer@guelphbasketball.com) 519-763-0138

Volunteering is the lifeline of our association. It is how we plan and coordinate all of the activity that makes the association function throughout the year. The GYBA is on a path of growth and development. There is a positive and energized group of people in place now helping to drive things forward. We want to

thank everyone who has contributed and continues to give their time. It would not be possible without you. If you are not presently volunteering, you can be part of this experience. We need volunteers like you to ensure that our future continues to be successful.



**GUELPH BASKETBALL**



# University of Guelph Partnership

Guelph Basketball has created an integrated and comprehensive partnership with the University of Guelph. The U of G basketball program is a very successful one with many talented players and accomplishments to their credit.

Guelph Basketball has organized to have their coaches attend and watch the practices of both the men and women's teams and see some first class coaching and player development in action. Chris O'Rourke and Angela Orton are both well respected coaches that have a lot to share.

Another dimension to the partnership is GYBA day at the U of G. This event is back from last year by popular demand. This year GYBA day is scheduled for Saturday January 19th. The Gryphon's take on the U of Western Mustangs. The Women's team plays at 1:00 pm and the Men play at 3:00 pm. Phoenix and Hustle players who wear their jer-

seys to the Athletic Center will receive free admission to both games. Parents, adults and other guests will be charged regular prices.

Up until Christmas, for each home game, there were two girl players chosen from Major Bantam and under Phoenix teams to be water girls for the Gryphon Women's team. Two boys were also selected to be water boys for each home game for the Men's team.

After Christmas the water boys and girls will be chosen from the Phoenix players



who sold the most East Side Mario coupon books. There are six Women's games and

ten Men's games left on the schedule after Christmas.

Guelph Basketball is also looking at ways to partner with the Gryphon's to attract graduating players, players that are finished for the season and other varsity and intramural players to be coaches and get involved in both the Phoenix and Hustle programs.

The partnership with the University of Guelph is just getting started. Guelph Basketball is excited to be involved with them and continues to work hard in strengthening its roots in the broader community.

**Lucas and Harris after a game as Gryphon ball boys**

**"Another dimension to the partnership is GYBA day at the U of G."**

## Some Raptor Day Details

The details for Sunday January 12th are unfolding. Here is the latest.

Guelph Basketball is organizing bus transportation and game tickets to the Toronto Raptors game against the Portland Trailblazers. Tip off for the game is 12:30 pm.

Tickets for the game and bus ride are \$35 each. We are

still confirming pick-up time and location.

This offer is available to all players from the Hustle and Phoenix divisions including their family and friends.

Phoenix team managers are getting tickets from Gabe Frank and Phoenix players can get them from those people.

Hustle players and their families can get tickets by contacting Gabe Frank via e-mail: Fundraising @guelphbasketball .com



**Guelph Basketball rockets you to the Toronto Raptors**



## GUELPH BASKETBALL



### Guelph Youth Basketball Association

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## Mark Your Calendar

Rick Torbett  
Coaching Clinic

Saturday January 5th  
8:30 am to 4:00 pm

College Heights S.S.

Rick Torbett  
Players Skills Clinic

Sunday January 6th  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm (junior players)  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (senior players)

College Heights S.S.

GYBA Day at  
the U of G

Saturday January 19th  
vs. U of Western Women 1:00 pm  
vs. U of Western Men 3:00 pm

University of Guelph  
Athletic Center

Raptor's Day

Sunday January 13th

Air Canada Centre

Executive Board  
Meeting

Sunday January 27th  
7:00 pm

Stone Road Mall Office

Coaching Clinic

Saturday June 7th  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

College Heights S.S.

Check the Website for other upcoming dates: [www.guelphbasketball.com](http://www.guelphbasketball.com)