

# Global hoops league shoots to score here

By Chelsi Cheatom  
Sentinel-Voice

The International Basketball League is starting a franchise team in Las Vegas. The yet unnamed new IBL team is scheduled to begin playing in the 2007 spring season. The franchise will become one of 32 IBL teams nationwide. The franchise is owned by World Sports Entertainment Group LLC, who also owns an IBL team in St. George, Utah.

World Sports Entertainment Group LLC is comprised of four members Arif Khatib, founder/president of the African American Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame, Thell Torrance, a pro-boxing trainer and trainer of former WBC Heavyweight Champion Hasim Rahman, Charles Kingsbury and Alexis Levi-Scott.

In the past several years, a few Minor League basketball teams have started in Las Vegas, but they have all quickly failed. The owners of the IBL team feel that they will have a better chance at succeeding and getting fans out to see their games.

"I did a little research before I came here and one thing I noticed is that UNLV has had a lot of success and there are a lot of people who love that team ...[other markets don't have] that strong of a college team," said Levi Scott, COO of World Sports Entertainment Group, LLC. "We're determined to do a really good job, and all of us have a lot of experience."

Another issue in Minor League basketball is ownership costs. The IBL has found strategies to reduce the travel

costs of their teams. They have limited travel to one flight per season by allowing teams to play other teams that are located within driving distance of one another, which they call 'cluster' scheduling. This has resulted in reducing operating costs to one-third of other leagues'.

IBL Deputy Commissioner Tony Alvarez explained, "Our goal is to make sure all the owners make it and that all the teams make it and return year after year."

The IBL has also changed some game rules in order to prevent slow games, which are common in Minor League professional basketball. Teams are allowed one time out per quarter, and games have an immediate inbounds rule to help keep games faster paced and more exciting. IBL teams have averaged 126.6 points per game in their two seasons in operation. The IBL season runs from the end of March through the end of June. The spring schedule is arranged so games don't conflict with high school, college or National Basketball Association regular season games.

"The facilities are more readily available, true basketball fans still want to see their basketball because March Madness has just ended. Another reason is that the other leagues and the players, as well as overseas teams, are finishing [their seasons]. Players are coming back from playing overseas and they want to get into a good spring league to stay in shape," said Alvarez.

Currently, the owners are in process of hiring a head

coach. They are also planning an exhibition game to be held in conjunction with the NBA All-star game in 2007. The owners plan to ask the community to help name the team in the coming months.

Many of the players playing on IBL teams are former collegiate stars and some athletes play on teams overseas. Teams are responsible for recruiting their own players. Recruiting announcements are posted on the IBL website at [www.iblhoopsonline.com](http://www.iblhoopsonline.com).



World Sports Entertainment Group LLC members, from left, Arif Khatib, Alexis Levi-Scott, Charles Kingsbury, Thell Torrance with IBL Commissioner Mikal Duilio.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

- Purpose • KUUMBA - Creativity • IMANI - Faith • UMOJA - Unity • KUJICHAGULIA

NIA - Cooperative Economics • UJAMAA - Collective Work & Responsibility • UJAMAA - Self-Determination • UJAMAA - Collective Work & Responsibility • UJAMAA - Cooperative Economics • NIA - Purpose • KUUMBA - Creativity

Self-Determination • UJAMAA - Collective Work & Responsibility • UJAMAA - Cooperative Economics • NIA - Purpose • KUUMBA - Creativity

## Rice reminisces about highlights

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) - College seems like a blur to Jerry Rice.

"It went by so fast. You're so focused," Rice said Saturday. "I wish I could go back and do it all over again."

That was a common feeling among the 20 men being enshrined Saturday into the College Football Hall of Fame. Former Alabama linebacker Cornelius Bennett, former Pittsburgh offensive tackle Mark May and Oklahoma running back Joe Washington all said they would love to live those days all over again.

Even fullback Roosevelt Leaks, who faced some obstacles in becoming the first Black All-America football player at Texas, said he would gladly do it again, even if it might have been a little more difficult for him.

"We all travel different roads. Whether it was a tougher road or not, there are always obstacles on the road. You keep moving forward," he said. "The things that deter you, they usually make you better."

May, now a college football analyst for ESPN, said (See Rice, Page 11)

**BLACK POWER**

A SHOW THAT WILL INFORM, STIMULATE, AND EDUCATE YOU...

**BLACK POWER**

A SHOW BUILT AROUND THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA...

**BLACK POWER**

A SHOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR...

FRIDAY 9AM  
ON KCEP-88.1

**BLACK POWER**


A HALF-HOUR OF SPIRITED AND THOUGHT PROVOKING DIALOGUE...

TODAY'S HOT TOPICS

**BLACK POWER**

TUNE IN AND CALL IN!

702.647.3688  
702.647.2145 FAX  
E-MAIL: [BLKPWR4US@YAHOO.COM](mailto:BLKPWR4US@YAHOO.COM)  
[WWW.POWER88LV.COM](http://WWW.POWER88LV.COM)



Hosted by  
RAMON SAVOY

**BLACK POWER**

• KUJICHAGULIA - Self-Determination • UJAMAA - Collective Work & Responsibility