

Dear Coaches,

I'm sending this message out to the coaches in the NBIAA Basketball Coaches Association to introduce this season's BNB coaching staff for CP Atlantic and to share some information about the program.

As some of you may have already read in the Basketball New Brunswick press release, I have recently been selected as the New Brunswick men's head coach for CP Atlantic. This is my fourth year involved with the program. I served as an assistant coach under Serge Langis from 2006-2008 and as an apprentice coach under Dwight Dickinson in 2005-2006. Working with me this season will be Peter Vincent, the head coach at Saint John High School, who is returning for his 3rd year in the CP program.

Jon Brian will once again be heading up the New Brunswick girl's program for the second straight season. Jon has been coaching in the Perth-Andover area for years and most recently was the head coach of BNB's U15 girl's team this past summer. Ryan Daye of St. George will serving as Jon's assistant coach. Ryan is new to the program this season however he has been with our women's Canada Games team under head coach Bill Mayberry (former CP Coach) the last two seasons.

This year we are implementing a number of changes in the delivery of the CP program here in the Atlantic region based on feedback we have received from parents, players and high school coaches. These changes include:

- **More Athletes**
We hope to increase the number of NB athletes in the CP program. The BNB staff is working with Canada Basketball and the Provincial Sports Organization's from the other Atlantic Provinces to determine the player allocation per province but at minimum we will have more spots available for in-province CP sessions.
- **Avoid Conflicts with NBIAA Basketball Season**
This year we will be front-end loading the program to deliver the majority of our 60 hours of training prior to the start of the NBIAA Basketball season. CP Tryouts will be held the weekend of September 13 at UNB Fredericton, with training sessions starting the following weekend and running until the weekend of November 8, 2009. The remaining training sessions (approximately 20 hours worth) will resume in the spring starting in mid-March.
- **Avoid Holidays**
This year's two Atlantic training camps will **not** be held on the Thanksgiving and Easter long weekends. Instead we plan to hold these 3-day training camps October 16-18 (Fri-

Sun) and April 3-5 (Fri-Sun) instead. We're assuming this will be more appealing to players and parents, but I'm also hoping these weekends will also be more convenient for high school, college and university coaches who would like to monitor these sessions.

- Competitions

Time and time again players have asked that there be some element of competition (i.e. games) added to the CP sessions so they can showcase the skills they are learning. This spring, following the age class provincial championships and prior to BNB Provincial Team tryouts, we plan to have the CP Athletes compete in live games. Details are still being worked out and will be posted on the BNB web site once we have more to report.

We're very excited about these changes as we feel they help make the program more attractive to the athletes and their families. We also hope everyone views these changes as helping better align the program with the NBIAA Basketball season and positions it as it was originally intended; a well integrated complement to a player's existing school, club or provincial team training schedule.

Jon and I also want to extend an open invitation to all coaches interested in knowing more about the program or the CP curriculum to attend any of our training sessions. As I've said countless times, I feel that I've gotten as much from this program as the athletes. The time spent with other CP coaches has been invaluable to me in my efforts to become a more knowledgeable coach. Whether it's on the court running drills or sitting at the dinner table between sessions diagramming plays with salt and pepper shakers, I learned as much or more from these sessions than from any video I've purchased or clinic I've attended.

A tentative schedule for the CP training sessions (girls and boys) will be posted on the CP Atlantic web page on BNB Web Site shortly. You can find the page at the following location <http://www.basketball.nb.ca/app/AthleteDevelopment/CentreforPerformance/tabid/70/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Tryouts for this season's program will be held September 13 at UNB Fredericton. A notice about the tryouts has been sent to all 2009 Provincial Team players and numerous New Brunswick based newspapers. Hopefully as coaches each of you feel that the CP Program is beneficial to your aspiring elite athletes and will encourage them to attend. If, however, you have concerns about having your players involved in the program please feel free to let us know those concerns so me might be able to address those issues going forward.

In closing, we would like to thank everyone for supporting basketball, especially our BNB Elite programs like CP Atlantic. Good luck this season.

Thank you,

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