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**“A TALENT
GOES NOWHERE
WITHOUT SOMEONE
WHO BELIEVES
IN THEM.”**

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Dear NABI Coaches,

Thanks to your commitment to both your kids and the NABI tournament, we have witnessed the tournament grow in both size and in the quality of competition. As tournament founders we have the privilege of witnessing the drive and passion that you have instilled in your players as they compete during the NABI games.

As we embark on our fifth anniversary, through NABI's urging, the NCAA has made it possible for players from the same tribal communities to play together regardless of their "same state" boundary rules. This new interpretation has opened up a window of opportunity for any Native American tournament to apply for NCAA sanctioning and moves NABI closer to providing an environment in which to showcase the talents of our Native American athletes to the entire field of NCAA affiliated college programs.

With the onset of NABI recently receiving NCAA certification, (see full story at "Press Releases" at www.nabihoops.com) all coaches will be required to also become a NCAA certified coach by applying online and taking a simple test and pay a \$40 fee. This requirement is to ensure that all coaches understand the rules as they relate to the tournament coaches, the athletes, and the university recruiters. As well as, insure the safety of our student athletes. A copy of your certification must be submitted when your team checks in on Sunday July 8, 2007. In addition, coaches will be required to register their teams, to include addresses and phone numbers of each player. All this information is located on the "2007 Team & Coach Info" on www.nabihoops.com. Please click "NCAA Coach Certification" and "NCAA Team Registration" to complete these two important mandatory requirements.

Though these processes may seem like over-kill, I know that you will join us in crossing any hurdle and breaking down any barriers, which may hinder the chances of our youth reaching the next level as college student athletes. NABI has opened the door of opportunity for Native American student athletes; Native country needs to walk through it!

The exciting developments taking place surrounding NABI have called for all parties to raise the bar of their commitment, preparation and performance. The athletes must prepare both mentally and physically for the rigors of competing in major college basketball and in the finest university classrooms.

We as tournament founders, participating coaches and NABI sponsors must continue to make the NABI tournament a destination point for college recruiter to scout some of the best student athletes in the nation. You as coaches must continue to show by example, that obstacles are only challenges that can be strategically overcome if you stay focused on the ultimate goal. In this case, a college education at top level universities.....while playing a game our youth love.

Sincerely,
Mark West
Co-Founder-NABI
Vice President Player Programs Phoenix Suns