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

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

HISTORY OF NABI

Native American Basketball Invitational

2002

- Mark West Vice President/ Players Programs /Phoenix Suns, Scott Podleski Arizona Rattlers, and GinaMarie Mabry form POD Productions, creators and organizers of the NABI tournament

2003

- NABI debuted in July 2003 with the Phoenix Suns supporting and sponsoring the event
- NABI immediately got the attention of global sporting apparel giant Nike and Nike becomes a major sponsor.
- NABI hosted 24 all Native American teams comprised of high school student athletes
- Championship Games played at American West Arena, home of the Phoenix Suns
- Tex G. Hall/President National Congress of American Indians becomes NABI's Honorary Chairman
- Ernie Stevens/President National Indian Gaming Association becomes NABI's Honorary Vice-Chairman
- NABI founded the NABI Foundation
- NABI helped create opportunities for five NABI athletes to receive college scholarships

2004

- Ak-Chin Indian Community, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community along with Phoenix area tribes sponsor NABI.
- NABI hosted 45 all Native American teams.
- Championship Games played at American West Arena, home of the Phoenix Suns.
- NABI is officially considered the largest all Native tournament in the U.S. & Canada
- April 2004: NABI receives the "President's Leadership Award" from NIGA
- NABI creates another nine college scholarship opportunities

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2005

- Fort McDowell becomes the title sponsor of NABI 2005
- Nike, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and local and national tribes commit again to sponsoring NABI.
- NABI breaks a record of 97 teams applying in the first two weeks of tournament registration opening.
- NABI hosted 64 all Native American teams
- Championship Games played at American West Arena, home of the Phoenix Suns.
- NABI is televised live on AZTV
- NABI is mentioned on front page of the New York Times as an organization who is leading the way to showcase Native American athletes
- NABI creates another six college scholarship opportunities
- NABI donates \$25,000 to the NABI Foundation

2006

- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community becomes NABI 2006 Title Sponsor and commits to playing host to NABI games.
- Nike, Ak-Chin Indian Community & Fort McDowell again commit to sponsoring NABI
- NABI awards five grants to Native American students & Native American scholarship funds through the NABI Foundation
- Championship games televised live on AZTV at U.S Airways Center, home of the Phoenix Suns, Saturday July 15, 2006.

2007

- NABI announces 2007 dates; July 8-14, 2007
- Nike commits to NABI for 2007
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community commit again to become title sponsor of NABI 2007
- NABI will host 80 teams (40 boys & 40 girls) for the 5th Anniversary tournament.
- NABI implements "NABI Career & College Fair" for athletes participating in NABI 2007
- Diana Taurasi /WNBA/Phoenix Mercury becomes NABI's Honorary Commissioner
- NABI's plight to encourage the NCAA to create an "Exception" to their "State Demographic" rule by respecting tribal teams and tournaments as sovereign nations is won
- NABI announces it has become the first all Native American tournament certified by the NCAA