

# **Pro basketball coming to Edmonton**

## **Edmonton Chill to tip off at MacEwan in March 2008**

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EDMONTON - Brace yourself for a Chill in the Edmonton air.

As reported in The Journal earlier this year, a new professional basketball team is blowing into town to play in the International Basketball League.

The upstart summer professional hoops league, founded in 2004, formally announced today that the Edmonton Chill will join the IBL, tipping off for its first game in March of 2008.

Paul Sir, who is also coach of the Concordia University Thunder, will take on the head coaching duties for the new team, while Michael Tratch will be the team's vice-president.

Both Sir and Tratch believe Edmonton hoops fans will embrace the IBL because of its up-tempo style of play.

"We are proud to bring the Chill to the City of Champions," Sir said in a news release. "It provides a fast pace with the league average being 127 points per game per team.

"We want the basketball fan, young and old, to come out and have a great time."

The league's web site lists 22 teams for the 2008 season, including teams from the American Midwest, the West Coast and the Rockies.

The 2006 and 2007 champions were the Elkhart (Indiana) Express.

The IBL was founded by Portland area sports promoter Mikal Duilio, and the league has special rules to help speed up the tempo of play and foster more points.

For instance, there is a 22-second shot clock instead of the National Basketball Association's 24-second clock, and teams are allowed a single timeout per quarter. An "immediate inbounds policy" also reduces time between plays.

The Chill will play its home games at the MacEwan Sports and Wellness Centre in downtown Edmonton.

The team plans to hold a press conference in the next couple of weeks to introduce members of the team management and unveil the Chill logo and colours.

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