

Birds Take on Cats in Season Opening Weekend

METRO VANCOUVER, BC (November 5th, 2012) – The Men's and Women's Eagles Basketball Teams opened their 2012-2013 season on the road as they traveled to Abbotsford to take on the Columbia Bible College (CBC) Bearcats on Friday, November 2nd.



With half of a roster of new recruits, the Women's Eagles came out onto the court with fierce intensity against the CBC Bearcats. The Eagles ran the Bearcats up and down the court led by second-year guard and captain, Jeannine Yngreso (Surrey), who started the season capturing an impressive 19 points and 8 steals and a 56% accuracy on 3-pointers (5 of 9). Cassandra Micon (Mission), another second-year Eagle guard, followed Yngreso's display very closely to add another 18 points to the scoreboard and also achieved 56% accuracy in 3-pointers (5 of 9). It was the night of the veteran guards when second-year Jessica Villadiego (Surrey) added to the Eagles' win putting up 13 points along with 9 steals. First-year forward, Laura Geissert (Germany), contributed with 9 rebounds for a 77 – 47 victory over the Bearcats.

"I thought that we worked hard but not always smart. We need to take care of the ball a lot better than we have lately and we have to do a better job of finishing our shots. We did a great job on the boards [against the Bearcats]. Next weekend will be a good test for us," stated Head Coach Dan Nayebzadeh.

The Men's Eagles had a nail biting first league game of the season versus the Bearcats pulling out the win in the final seconds of the game. The Eagles out rebounded CBC (81 to the Bearcats' 55) and had four athletes in the double digits to contribute to the 70 – 68 victory. Fourth-year centre, Ali Bosir (Surrey) led the Eagles in points with 18 as well as with rebounds (15) for the double double. Tristan Gruenthaler (Abbotsford), second-year forward, followed with a total of 14 points on the scoreboard. Second-year guard, Aaron Ram (Surrey), posted his first career double double with 11 points and 10 rebounds in the match. It was a defensive battle that came down to the last possession. In the dying minute of the fourth quarter, Ram converted a lay-up but was fouled on the play. Making the free-throw to give the Eagles a 2 point lead, the Bearcats responded by converting a lay-up in Eagles territory for the tie at 68 points and entering the final seconds of the game. In the final play of the game with 13 seconds remaining, Ram missed a three-pointer but it was rebounded by second-year forward, Gurpal Mann (Surrey), and converted the lay-up for the game winning basket as the time expired.

Head Coach Stefon Wilson stated in response, "Games like this [are] the reason why you must play tough and compete on the defensive end. We did not shoot the ball well from the field but our defense and rebounding kept us in the game. I am proud of my guys for staying focused and being mentally tough when it was just not our day on the offensive end of the court."



Next week the Eagles begin their first double-header weekend of the PACWEST season by facing Capilano University on Friday, November 9th and then travelling to Squamish on Saturday, November 10th to compete against Quest University. The Women's games begin at 6pm and the Men's games begin at 8pm for both match-ups.

Complete information can be found at: www.kwantlen.ca/eagles

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For more information about the Kwantlen Eagles, contact:

Elise Le Brun
Director, Athletics & Recreation
Tel: 604.599.2005
elise.lebrun@kwantlen.ca

For more information about Kwantlen, contact:

Joanne Saunders
Director, Marketing and Communications
Tel: 604.599.2243
joanne.saunders@kwantlen.ca