

21 January, 2010

ONE slam dunks its way into High Stakes Hoops

Network Ten today announced a return of local basketball to commercial free-to-air television with a new tournament – the "Footlocker Elite Classic – High Stakes Hoops" to air on ONE in April.

The competition, running from the 6th to 11th April in Adelaide will see more than 37 hours of LIVE basketball broadcast over five days on commercial free-to-air television. Bill Woods will host the coverage on ONE and will be joined by expert commentator Steve Carfino.

Eight teams will play for a total prize pool of \$250,000 over the five days with personalities as team rights owners. Hawthorn Football Club superstar Buddy Franklin has taken charge of the Pythons while Melbourne Vixen, Julie Corletto will own the Coasters and Lanard Copeland (former NBL great, future NBL Hall-of-Fame player, Melbourne Tigers) will be team rights owners of RUSH. Brett Maher (former Adelaide 36rs star and Australian team member) will take control of the FLEET team.

Network Ten Head of Sport, David White said basketball had a passionate following in Australia and this tournament will fill a gap in the current Australian television landscape.

"ONE currently televises NBA and NCAA games each week during the American basketball season and the fans have shown us they are passionate about their sport. We believe this tournament with its big name stars, owners from various sporting codes and the creative rule changes will provide a fast and exciting event for our fans to enjoy LIVE and EXCLUSIVE on ONE."

Several rule changes or 'innovations' have been included to make the games more interesting for fans.

"The changes will make the games more dynamic for the fans and players alike delivering innovation that directly answers the call for a unique, free-flowing, every-minute-counts basketball contest," said ECB Managing Director, Jeff Van Groningen.

On two occasions during each game, the coach or on-court captain of each team may opt to use a 'game breaker' phase. Over 3 minutes every three-point shot scored by the 'game breaker' team will count as four points. The backboard at the team's end will be brightly lit in green denoting that the game breaker phase is in process.



In another initiative each individual quarter will be scored separately from the game score. The team that wins each quarter will receive bonus 'elite points' that will be accumulated during the competition and will have an impact on the prize money distribution that reach the Footlocker Elite Classic – High Stakes Hoops Final Four.

"This change will mean that teams won't wind down the clock at the end of the quarter because while they want to the win the game they will also want those bonus points for winning the quarter as well," Van Groningen said.

ONE broadcast schedule:

Tuesday 6 April & Wednesday 7 April:

12.30pm – 8.30pm AEST & Bris / 10.30am – 6.30pm Per / 12noon – 8pm Ade

Thursday 8 April:

11.30am – 7.30pm AEST & Bris / 9.30am – 5.30pm Per / 11am – 7pm Ade

Friday 9 April:

4.30pm – 8.30pm AEST & Bris / 2.30pm – 6.30pm Per / 4pm – 8pm Ade

Sunday 11 April:

FINAL: 5pm – 7.30pm AEST & Bris / 3pm – 5.30pm Per / 4.30pm – 7pm Ade

