



**November 1, 2018**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GUELPH NIGHTHAWKS ANNOUNCE 2019 CEBL SEASON SCHEDULE**  
*Inaugural Canadian Elite Basketball League home opener set for May 11, 2019*

Guelph, ON – The Sleeman Centre will open its doors to professional basketball on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> when the Guelph Nighthawks host their inaugural home opener of the 2019 Canadian Elite Basketball League season against the Saskatchewan Rattlers. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. In addition to the home opener the club announced the entire 2019 regular season schedule.

Modelled after top international professional leagues, the CEBL is comprised of six founding teams located in Guelph, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Abbotsford. Each team's regular season schedule will be comprised of 10 home and 10 road games using FIBA (International Basketball Federation) rules, and player and referee standards set by Canada Basketball. Rosters will be comprised of 70 percent Canadian players, with many playing professionally in North America and overseas during the traditional basketball season. FIBA rules allow for a more up-tempo, free-flowing basketball game. Said Tarry Upshaw following his announcement as Nighthawks Head Coach and General Manager, "We want to put on a show. We want to be playing above the rim, shooting three's, getting the kids off their seats."

In recent years Canada has emerged on the international basketball stage, with over 160 players currently playing professionally around the world and another 100 on NCAA Division 1 rosters. The CEBL will now provide the platform to bring these incredible athletes back home, and allow fans to witness professional basketball that is built by Canadians and for Canadians.

"When fans of Nighthawks basketball step foot inside the Sleeman Centre they are going to see a sport entertainment experience the likes of which Guelph has not previously seen," said Cameron Kusch, President of the Guelph Nighthawks. "Nighthawks basketball will be affordable, accessible and most importantly the game day will be comprised of an in-arena experience buzzing with music, activity, promotions and social gathering spaces. Whether you're here for the exceptional talent on the court or for a night out on the town with friends and family you will be immersed in the Nighthawks entertainment experience. Our goal is to ensure you leave the arena feeling you received full value for your ticket purchase."

The Nighthawks 2019 schedule will provide fans with the opportunity to see the Fraser Valley Bandits, Edmonton Stingers and Saskatchewan Rattlers twice per season, while also allowing for the build-up of local

GUELPH NIGHTHAWKS OF THE CANADIAN ELITE BASKETBALL LEAGUE

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rivalries with the Hamilton Honey Badgers and the Niagara River Lions. As part of the festivities commemorating the inaugural Nighthawks season the club will be hosting a Fan Appreciation Night, Retro Night and a Summer Solstice Night recognizing the end of the school year and official start of summer, with specific dates to be outlined closer to the start of the 2019 season.

The 15-week CEBL season will see each team play the five other teams twice at home and twice on the road. Four teams will ultimately qualify for the Championship Weekend where the 2019 CEBL league champion will be crowned.

Nighthawks season membership packages will range in price from \$16.50 per game for baseline seats in the lower bowl, up to \$81.00 per game for centre-court, first row courtside seats. Season memberships will be going on public sale later this month, available online via [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca) or by calling the Nighthawks Membership Services team at (548) 988-4295.

For more information on the Guelph Nighthawks visit [www.thenighthawks.ca](http://www.thenighthawks.ca).





## GUELPH NIGHTHAWKS 2019 CEBL REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 9	7 p.m.	at Fraser Valley Bandits
<b>Saturday, May 11</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Saskatchewan Rattlers</b>
<b>Saturday, May 18</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Fraser Valley Bandits</b>
Friday, May 24	7 p.m.	at Edmonton Stingers
<b>Saturday, June 1</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Niagara River Lions</b>
Wednesday, June 5	7 p.m.	at Hamilton Honey Badgers
<b>Saturday, June 8</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Saskatchewan Rattlers</b>
Friday, June 14	7 p.m.	at Niagara River Lions
<b>Saturday, June 15</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Fraser Valley Bandits</b>
<b>Saturday, June 22</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Hamilton Honey Badgers</b>
Thursday, July 4	7 p.m.	at Fraser Valley Bandits
<b>Saturday, July 6</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Edmonton Stingers</b>
Thursday, July 11	7 p.m.	at Edmonton Stingers
Thursday, July 18	7 p.m.	at Saskatchewan Rattlers
<b>Saturday, July 20</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Edmonton Stingers</b>
<b>Saturday, July 27</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Niagara River Lions</b>
Thursday, August 1	7 p.m.	at Niagara River Lions
Saturday, August 3	5 p.m.	at Hamilton Honey Badgers
<b>Friday, August 9</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Hamilton Honey Badgers</b>
Thursday, August 15	7 p.m.	at Saskatchewan Rattlers

**Home at Sleeman Centre**

Away

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