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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CANADIAN ELITE BASKETBALL LEAGUE REVEALS ENTRY DRAFT LOTTERY RESULTS,
GUELPH NIGHTHAWKS TO SELECT 3RD OVERALL**

Guelph, ON – The Canadian Elite Basketball League (CEBL) announced Wednesday the results of its lottery draw that has determined the order of selection for the 2019 CEBL Entry Draft and U SPORTS Draft, which will be held Saturday, March 16. The draw took place in the offices of the CEBL and was witnessed by the presidents of each team.

The Fraser Valley Bandits have won the first overall pick in the 2019 CEBL Entry Draft and will lead off the 11-round CEBL Entry Draft. The Guelph Nighthawks will select with the third overall pick in the first round. The draft will follow a snake format, meaning teams will select one through six, then in inverse order through each subsequent round. Following the 11th round, a two-round U SPORTS Draft including both graduating and returning university players will be held. By virtue of selecting last in the opening round of the CEBL Entry Draft, the Niagara River Lions hold the first pick in the U SPORTS Draft.

“I think the fun begins now as coaches, GMs, and presidents have their work cut out to assemble a winning roster”, said Mike Morreale, Chief Executive Officer of the CEBL. “Key league partnerships with Canada Basketball and U SPORTS are only going to help them in this process, and personally I cannot wait to see the 78 players these teams select.”

The draft order for the first round of the CEBL Entry Draft is as follows:

- 1st pick:** Fraser Valley Bandits
- 2nd pick:** Edmonton Stingers
- 3rd pick:** Guelph Nighthawks
- 4th pick:** Saskatchewan Rattlers
- 5th pick:** Hamilton Honey Badgers
- 6th pick:** Niagara River Lions

“While each of the six teams had hopes of selecting with the first overall pick in the opening round of the CEBL Entry Draft, only one could be granted the rare opportunity of drafting the first player into the CEBL,” said Cameron Kusch, President of the Guelph Nighthawks.

“Truthfully, with a snake format to the inaugural CEBL Entry Draft selecting in the middle of each

round will actually best position the Nighthawks for success on draft day. Tarry and his coaching staff have committed to building a high-energy team that plays an up-tempo and exciting brand of basketball. In doing so he has placed a premium on Canadian talent as he builds the identity of our inaugural team.”

The CEBL, the official professional league partner of Canada Basketball, opens its inaugural season in May with franchises in Fraser Valley (Abbotsford), Edmonton, Guelph, Hamilton, Saskatchewan (Saskatoon), and Niagara (St. Catharines). CEBL teams will play a 20-game regular season from May 9 to August 15, culminating with a league championship playoff at a site to be announced.

Team rosters will be predominantly comprised of Canadians playing professionally during the traditional basketball season, as well as a number of international and U SPORTS players. The 2019 CEBL Entry Draft and U SPORTS draft will be structured as follows:

Round 1-4: Canadian Regional Rounds

The first four rounds of the draft will have a regional focus as CEBL teams will select only players from their respective territories, allowing each team to have a nucleus of players from its own region. Guelph, Hamilton, and Niagara must select players with specific ties to Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Edmonton, Fraser Valley, and Saskatchewan must select players from Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia as well as the three territories, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Round 5-11: General Draft Rounds

Commencing with Round Five, the draft will open up for all teams to select players from any region of the world.

Round 12-13: The U SPORTS Draft

The rising stars of tomorrow – these rounds will see teams select emerging Canadian basketball talent actively playing in U SPORTS programs across Canada.

The Guelph Nighthawks host their inaugural 2019 Canadian Elite Basketball League home opener on Saturday, May 11th at the Sleeman Centre against the Saskatchewan Rattlers. For more information on the Guelph Nighthawks and available ticket packages please visit www.thenighthawks.ca/tickets or call (548) 988-HAWK.

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LOTTERY DRAFT ORDER



#1 FRASER VALLEY BANDITS



#2 EDMONTON STINGERS



#3 **GUELPH NIGHTHAWKS**



#4 SASKATCHEWAN RATTlers



#5 HAMILTON HONEY BADGERS



#6 NIAGARA RIVER LIONS



3RD PICK
GUELPH
NIGHTHAWKS