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Players To Watch at the 2011 Les Schwab Invitational presented by Express Employment Professionals!

Portland, Oregon – The Les Schwab Invitational presented by Express Employment Professionals invites Portland-area basketball fans the opportunity to see nationally ranked teams and future college and NBA Stars perform at Oregon's top Holiday basketball tournament. Some of the top players to play in the Les Schwab Invitational include: **Carmelo Anthony** (New York Knicks), **Kevin Durant** (Oklahoma City Thunder), **Tyson Chandler** (New York Knicks), **Mike Dunleavy, JR.** (Milwaukee Bucks), **Kemba Walker** (Charlotte Bobcats), **Brandon Jennings** (Milwaukee Bucks), **Ty Lawson** (Denver Nuggets), **Kevin Love** (Minnesota Timberwolves) and **Nolan Smith** (Portland Trail Blazers).

The 16th Annual LSI will again feature several of the top-ranked players in the country who could one day end up on an NBA Roster. The players to watch at the 2011 LSI include:

Seniors

Ricardo Gathers (PF, 6-7 Riverside Academy - Undecided): Widely considered one of the top players at any position in the 2012 class, Ricardo Gathers is drawing interest as a power forward from several top programs including Syracuse, LSU and St. John's. Gathers originally committed to St. Johns, but changed his mind last month and reopened his recruiting process. He's a physical specimen who possesses tremendous power and athletic ability. He is built like an NFL linebacker already as a high school senior. He loves to power it up through the body of the defender and welcomes contact where he usually finishes at a good percentage. As a rebounder, he not only goes up and gets rebounds, but he takes them away from others with hands like vice grips. Gathers uses his strength and athleticism to overpower opponents inside. He has a punishing drop-step move and he can also take his opponent off the dribble with a quick pump fake and then exploding to the rim.

Damyean Dotson (F, 6-6 Yates High School – University of Oregon): Dotson recently committed to play for Dana Altman and the University of Oregon next year. Dotson brings a lot of energy and plays extremely hard on both ends of the floor.

D'Vantes Smith-Rivera (SG, 6-3 Oak Hill Academy – Georgetown): The smooth shooting Smith-Rivera is an old school guard who can score inside and out and has committed to Georgetown. He is extremely versatile and can play any perimeter position. He has a strong body and can pretty much get anywhere he wants to on the court by using his strength against smaller defenders.

Tyler Lewis (PG, 5-11 Oak Hill Academy – NC State): LSI fans should love the gritty point guard who has a knack to find open teammates with an arsenal of passes and lobs that lead to thunderous dunks by his teammates. Lewis will sneak up on his competition and make a play before they know what hit them. His skill level off the dribble enables him to get by defenders and into the paint where he is excellent at finishing for a lay-up or passing to an open teammate.

Jordan Adams (F, 6-5 Oak Hill Academy – UCLA): Adams is a strong wing that has a knack for scoring. He attacks the rim on the break where he is strong enough to score through contact and draw the foul or hit the floater in the lane. Adams can hit the mid range jumper as well and has committed to play at UCLA next year.

Landen Lucas (C, 6-10 Westview – Kansas): Lucas returns to Oregon after playing last season at Findlay Prep in Nevada and signed a letter of intent to play at Kansas next season. He is joining a Westview team that was the state runner-up in each of the past two seasons and could be the missing piece that Coach Coons needs to win the State Championship this year. He chose Kansas over Washington, Stanford, Tennessee, and Cal. Lucas has the ability to score in the post and has a nice face up game. Lucas is already very strong and will only get stronger as he adds more muscle to his frame. He is considered a natural shot blocker and rebounder but also has a nice touch on his shot.

Jordan Tebbutt (G/F, 6'5 Oak Hill Academy - Undecided): With a smooth shooting stroke and a solid frame, Tebbutt will return to the LSI as an Oak Hill Academy Warrior instead of playing for Horizon Christian like he did last year. He could become the first player ever to be named to the All-Tournament Team from different schools in consecutive seasons. Tebutt is a player who never takes a play off. He hasn't committed to a college yet, but has offers from Oregon State, Portland, Virginia, and Washington State.

Maika Ostling (C, 6-9 Dayton High School – Oregon State): Ostling is hoping to impress the Beaver basketball fans in attendance at the LSI with his second appearance at the tournament. Shortly after last year's Les Schwab Invitational, Ostling committed to Coach Robinson and the Beavers who are looking for the talented big man to come in and contribute immediately next season.

Jake Ehlers (PF, 6-7 Corvallis High School – University of Portland): Ehlers is a skilled power forward who can score and rebound. As Oregon's 5a state player of the year last year, he led his team to a 27-1 record and the State Championship. He will attend the University of Portland on a full scholarship.

Damien Wilson (F, 6-6 Oak Hill Academy - Memphis): Wilson is an exceptional athlete who loves to makes high level athletic scoring plays with the ball in his hands. He is an explosive slasher on the wing with a great first step. Wilson has committed to play at Memphis next season.

Darion Clark (F, 6-6 Oak Hill Academy – Charlotte): Darion is the prototypical power forward with a chiseled frame and bounce off the floor. He displays a very good skill level and can back down defenders on the block and finish with either hand. After being on the receiving end of teammate Tyler Lewis's passes this season, the duo have earned the nickname "Lewis & Clark" and will hope to entertain LSI fans with some entertaining alley-oops here in the Northwest.

Avery Holmes (G, 6-2 North Salem – Undecided): Holmes is a solid point guard with a long wingspan and a great jump shot. There are some mid and high major schools looking at Holmes including University of Portland, San Francisco and Georgia Tech who have all been spotted sitting courtside at his games this year.

Juniors

LJ Westbrook (G, 6-3 North Salem - Oregon State): Only a junior, Westbrook has already established himself as one of the top players in Oregon. He has committed to Oregon State and loves to attack the rim and also enjoys playing tough defense.

Calvin Hermanson (F, 6-6 Lake Oswego – Undecided): Hermanson is an extremely athletic forward and could be the early favorite to win the LSI's Slam Dunk contest this year. He has drawn interest from Gonzaga, St. Mary's, Oklahoma State, Oregon State, Washington State, Utah and Oregon.

Franklin Norman (G, 5-11 Benson – Undecided): Considered one of the best guards in the state, the junior from Benson loves to get to the rim. Norman has good speed and also has great ball handling ability.

Austin Dyer (PF, 6-7 Central Catholic – Undecided): Dyer is recovering from a knee injury but should be ready to lead Central Catholic back to the post season this year. He is getting interest from some Pac-12 schools including both Oregon and Oregon State.

Caleb Dozier (PG, 6-4 Southridge – Undecided): This heady point guard doesn't make a lot of mistakes is very smart with the ball. This could be the first opportunity for fans to see how good Dozier is since it is Southridge's first appearance in the LSI.

The 2011 Les Schwab Invitational presented by Express Employment Professionals takes place at Liberty High School December 26-30th with the Express Employment Professionals Slam Dunk Contest / 3 Pt. Shootout taking place on Tuesday, December 27th at 1:00pm. Proceeds from the Slam Dunk Contest / 3 Pt. Shootout will benefit Brian Grant's "Shake It 'Till You Make It" Foundation. Brian Grant will be serving as a judge along with Chad Doing from 750 The Game's Morning Sports Page and KGW Sports Anchor, Michael Berk. For additional event information including online ticket sales, please visit: www.lesschwabinvitational.com

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