

2006 Tour Report



Out West Basketball Association Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Issue 6

GAME 5

Out West vs. Saarlouis – Aug. 27

The Remich Tournament organizers did a great job of bringing together four talented teams from four different countries (Germany, Canada, Belgium and Luxembourg) resulting in exciting matches. After beating the Belgium team, Out West had the opportunity to again face the Saarlouis Royals, a talented Division I German team that they had lost to last week. This final game was a test for both teams. Could Out West find the extra stuff to knock off the highly ranked and talented German team after losing to that team by 7 previously, and how would Saarlouis perform in a neutral gym?

Out West struggled from the beginning of the game and at times made come backs but could not match the intensity and shooting of Saarlouis. The Royals took an early lead and never relinquished it. Out West came within 6 points of Saarlouis in the third quarter but could not achieve the shooting percentages of previous games. In the last quarter, Out West appeared to run out of energy and could not stop a Saarlouis run which ended the game 95-76 in their favor.

U of Calgary's Lindsay Maundrell led scoring with 22 points. Ashley Dutchak netted 15, and Kelsey Blair nailed 14 points and 10 rebounds. U of Victoria's Janet Hatfield chipped in for 9 points and 6 rebounds.

Out West plays its next game against Dudelange, another Division I team on August 29 at 6:30pm in the Hartmann Sportcenter in Dudelange Luxembourg.



Carolyn Plummer taking on Saarlouis defenders



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Hoops Views: The "European" Game

The Out West Elite program is now in its third season, and each year the differences between the Canadian and the European games are obvious as Canadian university players take on European professional athletes. Simply put, the Europeans play a tougher game, allowing, and in fact, encouraging more physical contact. In addition, players are trained to be a threat from all positions. (It was not uncommon to see 6' 3" + inside players sinking three pointers and ball handling with the agility of a guard)

Out West forward, and UNB Varsity Reds graduated player, Carolyn Plummer, has observed the differences. "Players here are more well rounded, and the game is a lot more physical than CIS ball. I really enjoy the intensity and fast paced style of basketball here in Europe."

Out West has worked hard to prepare its players for the European game, however more has to be done a lot earlier in the development of Canadian players. The people who determine the nature and rules of the Canadian game may want to look more closely at gravitating to the European way. Canadian youth development programs may want to introduce systems where, for example, a young person may not be restricted to learning only post moves just because she or he is the tallest kid on the team. Who knows? With some of these ideas, Canada may in time climb a bit higher in international competitions.



Ashley Dutchak shoots the free throws

