

PRE-SEASON REPORT

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MEN'S BASKETBALL PRE-SEASON REPORT

By Khayla Gladney

The West Los Angeles College men's basketball team is off to a fresh start, literally a fresh start, with a brand new head coach Anthony Jones. He is very excited to be working with the Wildcats and bring in new systems.

Pre-season was limited with most of that time being spent on an extended tryout period where the coach could get to know the prospective players' strengths and weaknesses. Ultimately, Coach Jones cut the team down to 15 players. While there were no show cases this year, the team worked extremely hard, said Jones, and he was impressed with their efforts and dedication.

Some of the returners from last year are Malek Hijazi and Ovie Tomakilli. Coach Jones is anxious to see what they will bring to this year due to their great reputations and achievements last season during their freshman years. Another returner is Darryl Mathews who red-shirted last year due to injuries but played the previous season. He is ready to do some damage on the court this season along with Joseph Campos who also red-shirted last year but played the prior year.

Coach Jones is looking for a lot from his veterans, but noted that there are many other players that he anticipates will make major contributions. He is building the team into his system and roles are being developed. The Wildcats' first tournament is at College of the Desert from November 5 - 7. Coach Jones said that the teams in this tournament are no joke and that his team can't take it easy, they have to bring it every game.

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