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## **Fairgrounds Coliseum to be new home of IUPUI Basketball** *State Fair Commission, IUPUI agree to 5-year deal starting next year*

INDIANAPOLIS – The IUPUI Basketball program will have a new home beginning in the Fall of 2014. The IUPUI Athletics Department and Indiana State Fair Commission have entered a partnership, allowing the Jaguars to host all home basketball games at the renovated Fairgrounds Coliseum, beginning with the 2014-15 season. The Fairgrounds Coliseum complex is currently undergoing an extensive, 22-month, \$63 million renovation.

The initial agreement is a five-year deal.

“This is a great fit for the IUPUI basketball program and the Indiana State Fairgrounds,” Indiana State Fair Commission Chairman Andre Lacy said. “The Coliseum has a great basketball tradition, and hosting a successful NCAA Division I program will only add to that. We look forward to seeing the Jaguars raise championship banners here in the years ahead as the new era of the Coliseum begins.”

“The Coliseum will showcase Jaguars basketball and allow the community to see our terrific student-athletes playing in an outstanding facility,” IUPUI Chancellor Charles R. Bantz said. “What an opportunity to see NCAA Division I basketball!”

Upon completion, the Coliseum is expected to seat 6,841 guests for basketball and will include fully renovated locker rooms, a suspended state-of-the-art double ribbon video board and hospitality options throughout fully updated concourses.

“Once the new Coliseum opens in 2014, people are going to fall in love with it... again. It will still have its historic feel, but it will also have the modern amenities needed for today’s sports and entertainment events,” State Fairgrounds Executive Director Cindy Hoyer said. “As someone who grew up watching the Pacers play here, I get excited just thinking about IUPUI starting a new tradition of basketball memories at the State Fairgrounds.”

Originally opened in 1939 as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Works Progress Administration, the Coliseum’s basketball history dates back to 1942 when the Indiana All-Stars defeated the Kentucky All-Stars 41-40 in the annual high school all-star game series. The Indiana Pacers called the Coliseum home from 1967-74 and garnered three ABA titles during that era.

IUPUI previously called the Coliseum home intermittently between 1975 and 1979, under the direction of former Head Coach Kirby Overman. The then-Metros went 6-1 at the Coliseum in 1977-78, led by 6-foot-3 guard Julius Norman’s more than 16 points per game scoring average.

The new partnership is an end result of mutual interest, expressed by both Hoyer and IUPUI Director of Athletics Michael Moore.

“Last summer I contacted Cindy right around State Fair time and asked if she was interested in meeting to discuss our potential partnership. I knew that she and her staff were extremely busy and really expected to hear

back after the Fair had ended,” Moore said. “She called me right back and said let’s meet now. That enthusiasm has carried itself throughout the process of arriving at an agreement.”

IUPUI will be a primary tenant within the facility, hosting all men’s and selected women’s games at the Coliseum beginning in 2014. In addition, the court and some permanent signage will be outfitted with IUPUI and Summit League logos throughout the facility. IUPUI will also have a team store located inside the Coliseum, providing another revenue stream for both sides.

IUPUI has played at its 1,215-seat on-campus facility since 1981, while also having played more than a dozen home games at Bankers Life Fieldhouse since 2004. Prior to the move to Division I, IUPUI also played home games at Chatard High School, Harry Wood Continuing Education Center, the Naval Armory and Market Square Arena.

**About Indiana State Fairgrounds**

*Established in 1892, the Indiana State Fairgrounds is a modern public event facility that annually hosts more than 300 meetings, shows, sports and agriculture events, including the Indiana State Fair. The Indiana State Fairgrounds is one of Indiana’s top tourist destinations annually attracting 2 million visitors to its 250-acre campus in Indianapolis’ Midtown district and adding \$124 million to the local economy. Its signature building, the Fairgrounds Coliseum, is currently part of a \$63 million renovation project and will reopen in August, 2014. Agriculture and food production education are part of the fairgrounds’ core values. The nine-member Indiana State Fair Commission, a quasi-governmental agency, oversees year-round management of the fairgrounds, which operates in a safe and fiscally conscious manner for the benefit of all citizens of Indiana. Additional information is available at [www.indianastatefair.com](http://www.indianastatefair.com).*

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