



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Harlem Rockets To Bring their Show to Eastern**

Willimantic, CT. – If you have ever dreamed of making the winning shot in a basketball game against some of the best players in the world, the softball and women’s basketball teams at Eastern Connecticut State University are looking for you. The teams are looking for volunteers to join “The Eastern All-Stars” on Nov. 10 in a game against The Harlem Rockets Comedy Show. Tip-off is at 8 p.m. in Eastern’s Francis Geissler Gymnasium. Admission is \$2 for Eastern students and \$5 for the public.

It’s all part of a fundraiser conducted by Diana Pepin and Denise Bierly, Eastern’s softball and head women’s basketball coaches, respectively. So far, the team features Denise “Light it Up” Bierly; assistant softball coach Jay “Slam-a-Jamma” Wetherell; Bill “Dazzling” Geitner; head men’s basketball coach; and design specialist, Kevin “Brick” Paquin. Even with such talent, Pepin says the All-Stars need help.

“The Rockets haven’t lost a game in their last 1,700 outings,” said Pepin. “But if

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we can recruit sleepers like Environmental Earth Science Professor Roy “Air” Wilson, Biology Professor Carmen “Sensational” Cid, and add some real heavyweights like Economic Professor Ken “Dunkin Donut” Parzych, President David “Mr. Wizardry” Carter, Mathematics Professor Steve “Sky” Kenton, Executive Vice President “Michael “Sky High” Pernal, and Baseball Coach Bill “The Peril” Holowaty, we should be able to at least compete. We believe we can stop the Rocket’s winning streak if we get Pat “Smooth as Silk” Kleine, dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies, to play point guard for us. Of course, we’ll take walk-ons from the community as well. We hear Roger Adams, president of the Willimantic Chamber of Commerce, has a mean reverse windmill dunk. We want him on the team real bad! ”

Pepin said the main goal is to “laugh a lot, have some fun. It’s a great night out for the family. The Rockets, well-known for their trick shots and entertaining ways with kids, have been called ‘Comedy Basketball at it Best.’ And for good reason. They will have the entire town in stitches.”

The main mission of the Harlem Rockets is not to win or lose, but to give a good show by focusing on audience participation. They engage the audience by dazzling them with their creativity and basketball talent. In addition, the half-time show allows children from the audience to test their basketball skills and receive prizes.

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The team is composed of talented and well-trained players who excel in comedy basketball. Each player brings his own creativity and humor to the game. The team roster includes Donnie “Razzmatazz” Seale, Alexander “Sky Walker” Howard, Ricky “7 Footer” Lopes, Johnny “Magic” Dadzie, Dwayne “Swoop” Simpson, and Kevin “Showboat” Jackson.

Donnie “Razzmatazz” Seale, 6’5”, has played professionally in Germany, Switzerland, Philippines, Honduras, China, Uruguay and Columbia. His basketball experience also includes playing for North Carolina State University, the Charlotte Hornets and the Denver Nuggets. Seale’s excellent ball handling techniques, speed and size allow him to be an aggressive player offensively and defensively.

Alexander “Sky Walker” Howard, 6’3”, attended Hill House High School in New Haven. During his high school career, he received many awards including being the fifth-best player in the state and scoring more than 1,000 points in his career. The Harlem Rockets nicknamed him “Sky Walker” due to his ability to leap from the free throw line and complete a spectacular dunk.

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Ricky “7 Footer” Lopes, 7’1”, has played professionally in Portugal, China, Taiwan, and South America. More than 50 colleges in the country heavily recruited him; he chose to attend Duquesne University because of their academics and basketball history. Lopes is also an accomplished actor, appearing in many national television commercials as well as the television sitcom, Law and Order.

Johnny “Magic” Dadzie, 6’2”, is an outstanding dribbler, passer, rebounder and scorer. At the age of 17, he was selected to be a member of the Zimbabwe National Basketball Team. He later received a scholarship to attend Milligan, a small Christian college in Tennessee. Dadzie transferred from Milligan to Southern Illinois University, where he played Division 1 Basketball. As a member of the Athletes in Action Basketball Team, he has toured the Ukraine, New Zealand and South Africa and played professionally in Israel. After his basketball career, he plans to be a full-time minister.

Dwayne “Swoop” Simpson, 6’7”, attended Southern Connecticut State University where he helped his team win two NECC titles and a Northeast regional title. He was nicknamed “Swoop” due to his ability to stride down the floor and glide through the air. Besides basketball, he is interested in computers and is an aspiring rap artist.

Kevin “Showboat” Jackson, 6’6”, was named the national high school slam dunk

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champion while attending Park West High School in New York. He has played basketball professionally in Turkey and France, and toured professionally in Greece, Germany, Spain and Italy. In addition to his basketball experience, he played for the NBA Summer League with the Los Angeles Clippers. Showboat has been one of the first players on record to successfully execute a 540 degree dunk. He is very comical and amuses the crowd.

For tickets, more information, or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Eastern All Stars, please contact Denise Bierly at (860) 465-4586 or Diana Pepin, women's softball coach, at (860) 465-5182.

It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

