



FRANCHISE NEWSLETTER

August 26, 2021

Franchise Administrators,

The CBA Board is pleased to announce the addition of 4 new members. Each brings specific skillsets that will benefit everyone involved with JUEL, most importantly the Players. Along with Alex (Kwiecewska) Kay, Sabrina Brathwaite and Fergy Neves the Board's priority will be bringing JUEL and JUEL Prep back onto the Provincial courts safely starting this fall. The new Board members include Heather LaFontaine (Ontario Basketball), Saicha Grant-Allen (Pro Player and former JUEL Player), Heidi Jaaskelaine (former College Player and current Game Official) and Dakota Whyte (former Pro Player and JUEL Player).

SAICHA GRANT-ALLEN



Originally from Hamilton, Ontario, Saicha is a 4-year Professional Basketball Player and a Mental Performance Coach outside of the painted lines. She played in JUEL for the Oakville Venom (2010/2011, 2012, 2013) then continued her athletic career at the University of Dayton while playing for Team Canada for 7 years. Saicha completed her Undergraduate in Teacher's Education as an Intervention Specialist. Her love for both teaching and for the game of life has led her to continue to wear her teaching hat as she guides athletes and life leaders along their personal journey through self discovery and personal development Coaching.

HEATHER LaFONTAINE



Heather began Coaching at the Senior Girl's level as a High School teacher at Paul Dwyer Catholic then Father Leo Austin CHS, the span of her entire 35-year teaching career. In 1995, Heather started the Whitby Wildcats Basketball Club, where she Coached numerous Girl's teams along with a few Boy's teams, ran a House League as co-Director of the Club. The Club was fortunate to have many Players move on into the post-Secondary ranks. Currently Heather is the Head Coach of the Durham Lords Women's Basketball team (since 2013), a member of the Ontario Basketball Board of Directors (since 2020) and the JUEL Liaison.

HEIDI JAASKELAINEN



Heidi played for Humber College securing a starting position in her rookie year and helped her team capture the OCAA Championship in the 2004-2005 season. She was named Rookie of the Year and was selected onto the OCAA All-Star team. After College Heidi Coached for a few years before taking on the role of Referee. Playing competitively at the OCAA level has given Heidi an invaluable understanding of how important Officiating is to allow Players equal opportunity to succeed.

Heidi became an OUA referee in 2017 and has Officiated both Men's and Women's games at the OUA and OCAA levels. Officiating the OSBA Women's Gold Medal Game in 2019 and assigned the Bronze Medal Game at the Women's CCAA Championships in 2019 held in Quebec. She has also Officiated at the National level being given the Gold Medal Game for the U15 Women's nationals in Regina in 2018.

Heidi brings to the game a strong understanding of the rules, court presence, game awareness, game management skills, and a willingness to learn and improve.

DAKOTA WHYTE



Dakota Whyte is a Retail Brand Manager at Nike Canada, and she is currently pursuing an MBA at Ryerson University, with a focus on Sports Business. Dakota is a former 7-year Canadian National Team member and played Professional Women's Basketball in Europe, specifically in Greece in the A1 Ethniki Women's tier and Sweden in the European Cup League. She completed her Undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on a Division 1 Basketball Scholarship. Dakota has an extreme passion for Community and serving marginalized groups and has been a women's basketball mentor in the City of Toronto since 2010. Through this passion, she currently serves on Pascal Siakam's PS43 Foundation Canada team. Dakota played in JUEL for the Advantage Titans (2010/2011, 2012) and is excited to come back full circle.