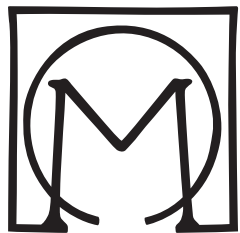


PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Midwest Orthopaedic to provide services to new pro basketball team

September 8, 2006

PEORIA, IL - Players of the American Basketball Association expansion team based in Peoria will benefit from the new, state-of-the-art strengthening and rehabilitation facilities at Midwest Orthopaedic Center on North Allen Road.

The Prairie Basketball Association recently partnered with Midwest Orthopaedic to provide physician and trainer services to its ABA team, which is currently conducting tryouts for the inaugural season. Midwest Orthopaedic will have a trainer on hand at every practice, as well as a team physician and trainer courtside for every home game.

"We're excited by the opportunity to be involved with this new team," says Dr. Michael Merkley, and orthopedic surgeon and basketball fan. "They're starting their season this fall and we're opening our new facility. The timing is perfect."

Merkley is one of the three sports medicine physicians at Midwest Orthopaedic. The group also has three athletic trainers on staff.

In addition to traditional rehabilitation therapy, the new facility will offer injured players an in-house MRI scanner and an underwater treadmill for low-impact conditioning. The center's gymnasium features a full basketball court for sports enhancement training as well as return-to-sport rehabilitation.

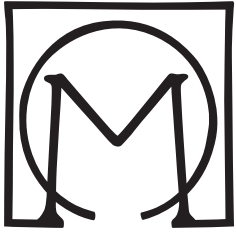
Midwest Orthopaedic provides services to a number of area sports teams, including Illinois Central College and the Peoria Rough Riders indoor football team. The doctors also will be on hand at this summer's Gus Macker basketball tournament.

The American Basketball Association is one of several minor-league pro basketball circuits. The league has 34 teams in 2005-06 and is currently undergoing expansion.

The ABA team recently signed former Peoria Manual High School and University of Illinois player Sergio McClain as head coach. The team likely will play its home games at the RiverPlex Recreation and Wellness Center in downtown Peoria.

-more-

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About Midwest Orthopaedic

Formed by a merger of two Peoria orthopedic groups in November 1, 1999, Midwest Orthopaedic Center SC is the largest and most diverse orthopedic group in downstate Illinois. The group has 10 Board-Certified orthopedic surgeons.

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