



By Jude Kelly

Temperatures are rising and birds are chirping. Snow is melting and the sun is getting warmer by the day. These seasonal changes signal the arrival of spring and the NCAA and CIS Men's Basketball Championships. The NCAA Men's D1 tournament – also known as the Big Dance – is a four-week hoop orgasm for any basketball fan. About 30 Canadians playing on various teams initially took part in the 68-team, single-knockout tournament with the University of Kentucky favoured to cut down the nets on April 6. If you've got news or story ideas, please let me know. Reach me at [jude.kelly@fimba.net](mailto:jude.kelly@fimba.net) 'Don't add age to your life but life to your age.' Yours in basketball, Jude.

### HOOP DREAMS



Last month, I had the pleasure of visiting the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, near Orlando. This amazing facility will host the 13th annual FIMBA Championships from Aug. 20-30, 2015 with championship games in the F30, F35, M35, M40, M45, M50 & M55 divisions televised live by ESPN.

The complex itself is a field of dreams for players and fans, with top-notch, professional facilities and amenities to please FIMBA players of every age and ability.

All games will take place at the Jostens Center, a gorgeous multi-purpose venue that features 12 NBA-sized courts, extra-large locker rooms and high-def displays throughout the complex that will give players live updates and daily tournament highlights.

Participating players will have a choice of two on-site hotels – Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort, or the family-oriented Disney Pop Century Resort. Free, shuttle service (every 30 mins) from both hotels to the ESPN-WWOS will be offered throughout the tournament. In a future FIMBA Canada blog, I’ll provide additional info on [Disney player packages](#) and entertainment options on site and in the area.



WALT DISNEY World®

More than 200 teams from around the world have already registered for the FIMBA Champions

hips. The tournament draw will be released in late April/early May. To register a team

[go here](#)

. To get more info on FIMBA hotel package deals,

[go here](#)

**BUFFALO MASTERS** – The 22nd annual North American Masters Tournament took place March 13-15 at the State University of New York at Buffalo. About a dozen Canadian teams crossed the border to participate in recreational and competitive divisions (ages 45+ to 80+. Former St. Bonaventure star Rob Samuels was selected MVP, leading the Mississauga OES team to a championship victory in the 50+ competitive division. OES' Leroy Cassanova also earned a tournament all-star award.

[Complete tournament results here](#)

**GUELPH BOAT TOURNAMENT** – Entries are being accepted for the annual B.O.A.T. Masters tournament in Guelph. This innovative tournament, also known as The Fatman Tournament, features several interesting rules & regulations, including 4-point FGs, 2-point FTs (from the top of the key) and subbing on the fly. The tournament takes place April 17-19, 2015. Entry deadline is March 24. Registration info:

[devintaylor@ymail.com](mailto:devintaylor@ymail.com)

**BURLINGTON CANADIAN MASTERS** – Jim Greeley, tournament director of the new Burlington Canadian Masters Basketball Championships, was at the Buffalo Masters event, promoting his new tournament, to be held Sept. 18-20, 2015 at the lovely Haber Recreational Centre.

Registration info:

[james.greeley@sympatico.ca](mailto:james.greeley@sympatico.ca)

### 2015 Arcelormittal Dofasco CIS Men's Basketball Final 8

And although the CIS (Canadian Inter-University Sports) men's Final 8 championships lack the hoopla of its American counterpart, it features the drama, buzzer-beaters and high-skill levels just the same. The CIS men's & women's basketball finals took place March 12-15, 2015 at Toronto's Mattamy Athletic Centre and Laval University in Quebec City, respectively.

For the 5th straight year, and 11th time in the past 13, the Carleton University Ravens emerged on top, with a dominating tournament performance, crushing Saskatchewan 90-50 in its opening-round game, then squeezing by University of Victoria 83-74 in the semi-final. The championship game was never in doubt as the Ravens coasted to a 93-46 win over cross-town rival University of Ottawa. Guard Philip Scrubb was named tournament MVP, scoring 28 points in the final. The host University of Ryerson Rams beat Victoria 82-68 to earn the bronze medal.

In Quebec City, meanwhile, top seed the University of Windsor Lancers defeated McGill University 60-47 to earn their 5th straight title. Korissa Williams captured tournament MVP honours for the winners, and her 21 points led all players in scoring in the final. Williams was also selected national Defensive Player of the Year.

[Men's results here](#)

[Women's results here](#)



### WIGGINS SHINES

Canadian Andrew Wiggins scored 22 points, as the World team beat the U.S. 121-112 at last month's NBA Rising Stars Challenge game, held in New York City during All-Star weekend. Wiggins, the No. 1 pick from Vaughan, Ont. who plays for Minnesota, was chosen as the game's MVP.

### IMPORTANT BASKETBALL LINKS

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## **FIMBA Canada Digest – Spring 2015**

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