

SPORTS

AfroCan Basketball Championship Highly Anticipated

Mt. Hood Community College Head Coach to Lead Eritrea's National Basketball Team

Mt. Hood Community College's (MHCC) Head Men's Basketball Coach Alexander Loul Syum, 32, has been invited to coach Eritrea's basketball team in the highly anticipated International Basketball Federation (FIBA) AfroCan basketball championships. The championships will be held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from June 17-23. The FIBA AfroCan championships provide a unique opportunity to showcase the immense talent of African basketball players on the continent. This event, organized by FIBA, is a prequalifier tournament for various international basketball competitions. As part of Zone V, which represents East African countries, Eritrea will be competing against teams from Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Tanzania. "We are incredibly proud of Coach Syum for this remarkable accomplishment," said Dr. Kim Hyatt, the dean of health, physical education, athletics, aquatics, and recreation at MHCC. "His dedication, expertise, and commitment to basketball have been evident throughout his coaching career. This opportunity to lead Eritrea's national basketball team

is a testament to his exceptional coaching abilities and the impact he has made on the sport on an international scale." Syum, born in Asmara, Eritrea, is honored to represent his home country and support the development of basketball in Eritrea. Having moved to Portland at a young age, Syum returned to Eritrea in 2019 to run basketball camps. In 2022, he organized a showcase in Minnesota, which brought together talented Eritrean basketball players from across North America. Five players from that showcase and seven other players from Eritrea will compete in the championships under Syum's guidance. "Returning to Eritrea in 2019 was a pivotal moment for me. It allowed me to reconnect with my roots and contribute to the progress of basketball in my home country," Syum said, "Now, as the head coach of the Eritrean national team, I am thrilled to represent and support Eritrean players in this competition that is sure to open a lot of doors for them." Syum's passion for basketball began during his childhood in the Parkrose School District in Portland. He played basketball throughout his educational journey, earning recognition as an all-team conference player at Parkrose High School.

He went on to play at Clackamas Community College and later received a full scholarship to Bethany College in Kansas. After completing his collegiate career, he transitioned into coaching, which ultimately led him to his current position as the head coach

at Mt. Hood Community College. "Coaching basketball has been a true labor of love for me, from my early coaching experiences in Oregon to an amazing opportunity in Singapore that came about while I was working for FastBreak, which is a club team, and enabled me to volunteer and learn from the Singapore national team," Syum explained, "I have been driven by a desire to help youth and promote the sport I am passionate about."

MHCC congratulates Syum on his appointment as the head coach of Eritrea's national basketball team and wishes him and the team the best of luck in the FIBA AfroCan championships. The college takes pride in its commitment to fostering talent and supporting coaches in their pursuit of excellence



Mt. Hood Community College's (MHCC) Head Men's Basketball Coach Alexander Loul Syum



Congratulations to our 2023 Scholarship Recipients



Abdinasir Sido
Portland State University
Major: Public Health Community Promotion



Adrianna Manning
University of Oregon
Major: Biochemistry and Medicine



Ashauntene McNair-Welch
University of Oregon
Major: Journalism



Azahn Rodriguez
University of Oregon
Major: Fine Arts



Bella Freeman-Moule
University of San Diego
Major: Environmental Studies



Char'lese Wakefield
Georgia State University
Major: Nursing



Christine Bynum
Spelman College
Major: Dentistry



Elliana McKinney
University of Washington
Major: Journalism



Hana Welch
Corban University
Major: Criminal Justice



Jenny Mavintana
University of Oregon
Major: Psychology



Kennedy Phillips
University of Southern California
Major: Public Policy



Kira Alberti
University of San Francisco
Major: Psychology



Lillian Martin
Hawaii Pacific University
Major: Nursing



Salem Solomon
Oregon State University
Major: Biochemistry



Skylar DeBose
University of Oregon
Major: Psychology or Journalism

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