

Owner excited about Blast

By [LEE LAMBERTS](#)

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The International Basketball League doesn't begin play until March, but Tom Moore is already getting ready and getting excited about opening night.

Moore is owner of the Holland Blast, a team that qualified for the IBL playoffs a year ago in its first season.

The Blast's 2007 schedule begins March 23 with a home game against the Grand Rapids Flight, a team that belonged to Moore and his group, Fast Forward Sports, until an offseason transaction.

"It just got to be too much to handle with two teams," Moore said. "We had one year of Grand Rapids and we were so ecstatic we bought another franchise, but we didn't add any extra staff or anything.

"It really hit us how much work it was to run two teams when we had two home games at two different sites."

So, Moore made a decision. He sold his interest in the Flight to IBL commissioner Mikal Duilio and retained his ownership of the Blast.

"We chose to keep Holland because I'm from Holland and I'm partial to the area," Moore said. "I thought we had better success in Holland in our first year. We just felt more comfortable with this franchise."

The Blast finished 14-8 and made it to the IBL postseason semifinals.

Moore said he expects the Blast to play at the Holland Civic Center again next year. He said he was "very happy" with his and the team's relationship with the Civic Center staff.

The Flight, meanwhile, have abandoned Grand Rapids Community College's Ford Fieldhouse in favor of Forest Hills Northern High School.

No players have yet been signed, but Moore said he would like to retain last year's nucleus, which included Duane Bosma, Hope College's No. 2 all-time leading scorer and point guard Dennis Springs, out of Ferris State University.

"We're excited to be coming back to Holland," Moore said. "We're looking forward to another good year of IBL basketball."

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