SMWW Student Breaks New Ground

Former Athlete Management Course student and current Agent Advisor, **Alexis Levi** recently became the first African American female owner in professional basketball when she purchased an expansion professional basketball franchise in International Basketball League (IBL). The team, based in Las Vegas, Nevada, will be coached by George Tarkanian, son of former UNLV head basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian.

"SMWW gave me a good base of knowledge about the sports business and allowed me to become a Sports Agent Advisor which lead to me furthering my knowledge of the business of basketball," said Levi- Scott. "What I learned in the course and while working with SMWW gave me the courage to own the Las Vegas Stars Professional Mean's Basketball Team. The in-depth workshops and reading materials provided during the Sports Management course gave me the details and information required when working with a professional athlete. "

Levi-Scott quickly went to work on holding tryouts, generating publicity for the team and signing players to contracts.

"The Las Vegas Stars are comprised of athletes from Las Vegas, NY, Atlanta, Detroit and Arizona, California and Finland," said Levi-Scott. "We are excited about the national publicity that we have received. Since taking ownership, we have received calls of interest from the NBA, NBDL, CBA and some international teams. It is very exciting."

The Stars' home opener is Thursday, April 19 versus the Colorado Crossover. The team will play its home games at Stations Sports Complex; the team has arranged to increase seating capacity on game days, and will offer fans valet parking. Levi's team will host 12 home games at the Las Vegas Station Sports Complex before approximately 2,500 fans. NBC affiliate KVBC will televise some home games. Fans may also view games on Internet Sports Channel Pay2ViewTV.com

The International Basketball League is a third-year professional men's basketball league. Consisting of 25 teams across the U.S., the IBL follows NBA rules with a few exceptions: 1.) five fouls per player, 2.) 22- second shot clock, 3.) an immediate inbounds, and 4.) Only one timeout per quarter. These rules were designed to reduce down time and lead to a faster & more entertaining game.