



PORTLAND POWER AFC

Australian Rules Football Club

Aussie Rules Football in Portland – Footy Tournament to show off PNWs Best.

This Saturday the Portland Power AFC host two of the pre-eminent Australian Rules football teams in the Pacific North West. Vancouver, British Columbia, division 1 winners at the USAFL National tournament in Colorado Springs last October and Seattle, winners of division 2 will be guests of the Portland Power for the annual Portland Aussie Rules Invitational.

Both visiting clubs have a rich, albeit short, history associated with introducing Australian Rules Football to the 'locals'. The Seattle Football Club was formed on Grand Final Day 1998 (September) after a discussion between a few Australian's that lived in Seattle and wanted to bring the excitement of Australian Rules Football to the Pacific Northwest. Over the following three months the club recruited heavily resulting in over 40 people on our member list. On December 13, 1998, after a short introduction for the uninitiated, the first game with 7 players per side was played on a shortened field.

The Vancouver Cougars came into existence in January 2001, a local aussie, had been contacted by several individuals interested in playing footy. The very first training session witnessed four players in attendance. The seeds had been planted and the team was formed. The first official Cougars team game was held on March 17, 2001 with an exhibition game of Gaelic Football against the Vancouver Irish Sporting Social Club. With a growing popularity, a second Vancouver area team, the Burnaby Eagles, were formed in 2007 and in 2008 the Vancouver area witnessed the birth of their third team, the West Coast Saints.

With a number of older players retiring at the end of 2008, the Portland Power will be fielding a relative young, but faster and tougher team. Almost half the team is made up of first and second year players American born players.

"This is a great opportunity for all our young players to get some much needed 18 a side match experience against top quality players. It's one thing working on your skills and fitness at practice and another to put it together during a game. Based on the development of our players I expect the Portland Power to take it right up to these teams and give them a real run for their money. Would I be surprised to see an upset ... not at all", commented Martin Coventry, Captain of the Portland Power.

We are looking forward to some fantastic football. Admission is Free. Bring a picnic and make a great day of it.

Saturday June 20, 12 noon to 5pm. Mt. Hood Community College

Mt. Hood Community college is located at 26000 SE Stark St. Gresham. The game will be played on the South West sports field, south of the swimming pool. Enter off NE 17th Street.

Directions: <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=26000+SE+Stark+St.%2C+Gresham%2C+OR>

For more information or media opportunities please contact:

Andrew Daniel Marketing and Public Relations marketing@portlandfooty.com (503) 791 0198,
Ben Cyphery President president@portlandfooty.com (503) 277 3722.

"NO HELMETS, NO PADS, NO WORRIES"

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