

NAB

NATIVE AMERICAN BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL

LARGEST ALL-NATIVE AMERICAN BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT IN NORTH AMERICA HIGHLIGHTING
HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENT ATHLETES.

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WHAT IS REZBALL?

Rez ball, short for "reservation basketball", is a style of basketball that originated and is primarily played on Native American reservations in the United States. It has a unique and fast-paced playing style characterized by high-scoring games, flashy moves, and a strong sense of community involvement. Rez ball incorporates elements of Native American culture and spirituality into the game, making it a culturally significant activity on reservations. It's known for its competitive and passionate play, and it has gained recognition beyond the reservations in recent years due to the creation of the Native American Basketball Invitational/NABI (2003), and more recently Springhill Productions/Lebron James feature film titled "Rez Ball" (2024).





ABOUT NABI

The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) is an annual basketball tournament that brings together Native American high school basketball players and teams from various tribes and reservations across the United States, Canada and as far away as New Zealand. At any given year NABI hosts over 2400 athletes, organizes over 480+ basketball games, and represents over 180+ tribal nations. The NABI tournament was founded in 2003 with the aim of engaging Native American youth through the love of the game of basketball and to create a platform to increase the number of Native American student athletes pursuing high education goals, and playing in collegiate sports.

NABI not only provides an exciting and competitive basketball platform, but also emphasizes cultural exchange, education, and leadership development. It includes activities such as a college & career fair, educational youth summit and scholarship opportunities for participating players. The tournament has gained global recognition for its positive impact on Native American communities, helping to foster a sense of unity, pride, and opportunity among Native American youth, and has had a direct impact on changing the NCAA governing rules to include Native American athletes as well as, increase Native American athletes participation in college and pro-sports. Most recently (2023), NABI received a *Congressional Recognition* from Rep. Greg Stanton for providing an exceptional sports program to our Native American youth, and investing in our Native American communities.

NABI is expecting over 200 teams for NABI 2025, scheduled for July 22-26.





VISION, MISSION AND GOALS



VISION

To continue to bring the popularity of the game of Rez ball and our Native American student athletes through national high school tournaments, social media platforms and streaming.



MISSION

Highlight the talent of Native American students athletes to create opportunities for higher education and collegiate sports. In turn, Native American athletes becomes part of the norm in the college recruiting process.



GOALS

- Continue to be recognized as the largest and most prestigious all Native American tournament.
- Increase NABI Scholarship awards.
- Enhance NABI.Network capabilities to stream all NABI games.
- Grow NABI footprint through “Official NABI Endorsed Tournaments”.

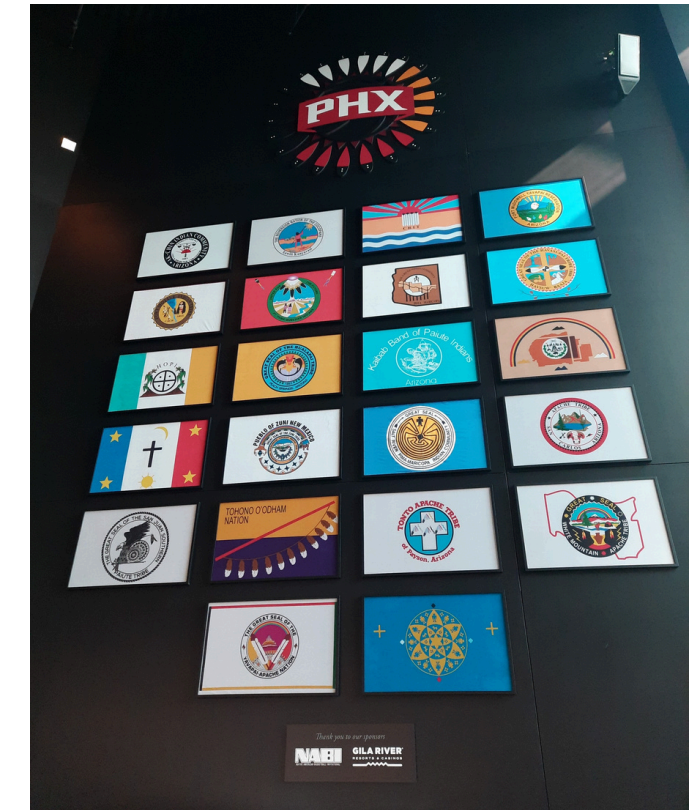
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2003-present

- **Challenged the NCAA** to change their “same state rule” to respect tribal sovereignty, thus allowing NABI to become the first all-Native American basketball tournament sanctioned by the NCAA and opening up NCAA sanctioning to all tribal tournaments-in all sports (2007).
- **First All Native American tournament to partner with an NBA/WNBA teams (Phoenix Suns/Phoenix Mercury)** and a global sporting company (**NIKE**). NABI Championship games are played at Footprint Center. NABI was NIKE N7's (native line) largest marketing platform (2007-2022).
- **NABI self-produced team uniforms under the NABI Nation merchandise brand** (2023) ending the relationship with NIKE. **Uniforms were designed by the Phoenix Suns** creative team and featured on center court of a Phoenix Suns game (2023). NABI Nation merchandise has become popular among NBA players and has been seen on players **Kyrie Irving/Dallas Mavericks** and **MarJon Beauchamp/Milwaukee Bucks**.
- **Continues to grow team participation annually by 20%**
- Featured on ***Religion of Sports*** produced by **Tom Brady, Micheal Strahan** and **Gotham Chopra**. (2018)
- Launched **NABI.Network** to establish a free platform to stream NABI games and increase and promote sponsors (2021).
- Semi-finals & Championship games featured on **ESPN+** (2022).
- **NABI 20-year relationship with the Phoenix Suns inspired their “OrigaNativ”** city edition uniforms and court, with their OrigaNativ merchandise breaking all previous Phoenix Suns merchandise sales records (2022).
- **NABI sponsored a permanent wall display** of the 22 Arizona Tribal Seals at the Footprint Center, home of the Phoenix Suns. The wall was displayed at the first OrigaNativ game (2022).
- Annual sponsor of the **Phoenix Mercury** Native American Night. Game among highest grossing game in tickets sales.



nabi
NETWORK



ESPN+



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2003-present

- Featured on **Overtime Sports** social media platform (2023).
- **Social Media reach of over 2.1 million (2024).**
- Awarded over **\$600K in scholarships**, grants and donated basketball courts to Native American students and communities (2003-2024).
- Contributed over **\$500K to Phoenix area partnering gyms** for sports programs and Native American student programs (2003-2024).
- Brings an annual **economic impact of \$3M+** to the city of Phoenix.
- **Endorsed tournaments** organized by MarJon Beauchamp/Milwaukee Bucks, Navajo Nation and Ak-Chin Indian Community (2024).
- **Broke an all time record of 196 teams competing in NABI representing over 184 tribal nations from the U.S, Canada and New Zealand (2024).**





WHERE WE ARE HEADED

To continue to cement NABI as the largest and most prestigious Native American basketball tournament in North American.

To focus on tournament growth through partnerships, team participation and Official NABI Endorsed Tournaments.

To increase revenue through the securing of major sponsors, enhancing the **NABI Nation merchandise brand**, growing the NABI.Network and creating a larger social media presence.

To continue to be among the top 10 largest high school basketball tournaments in the U.S.



NABI

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Powered by **RESOLUTION**
C O P P E R

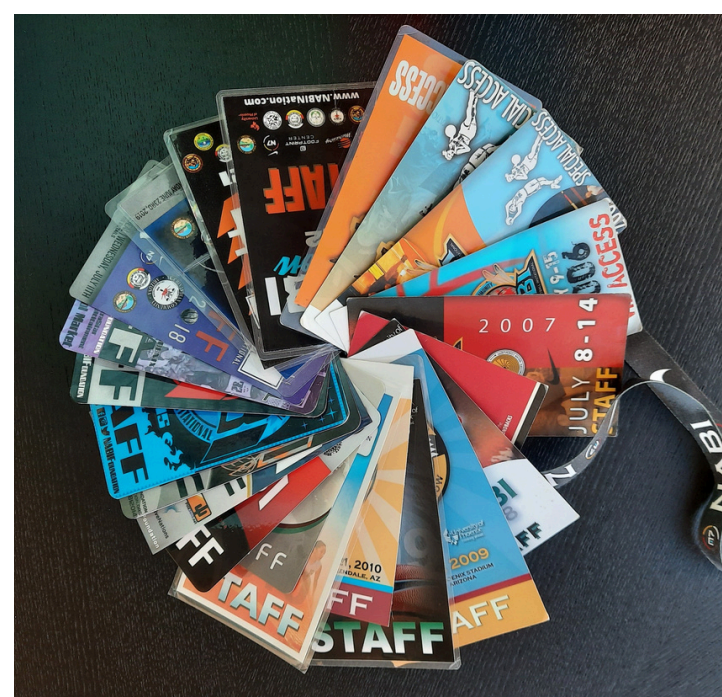




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JULY 2024

REACH

2.1M

IMPRESSIONS

4.2M



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