

# Developing Legends

## Frisco pro team prepares for 2010-11 season

By DOUGLAS FARMER  
Contributor

Antonio Daniels will have a second shot with the NBA after facing the end of his career because of an injury almost two years ago.

The former first-round NBA pick and 12-year veteran will join at least two other former first-round picks — forward Sean Williams and guard Reece Gaines — at Dr Pepper Arena this year as a member of the inaugural Texas Legends team.

“It’s a blessing for me [to be here],” Daniels said. “It is a great opportunity for me to get back on the court with the guys, and feel the camaraderie of the team.”



Donnie Nelson

The Legends, the Frisco NBA Developmental League affiliate of the Dallas Mavericks, initially formed about a year ago when Mavericks general manager Donnie Nelson purchased the expansion franchise in the D-League. Soon thereafter, Nelson and co-owner Evan Wylly hired hall of famer Nancy Lieberman to serve as the Legends head coach.



Submitted photo by OLIVIA ORDONEZ

Assistant coach David Wesley and the Texas Legends go through drills as they prepare for their inaugural season in the D-League.

On Nov. 18, when she led the Legends onto the court against the league’s defending champions, the Rio Grande Valley Vipers, Lieberman became the first woman to coach a men’s professional basketball team.

“[Being the first woman coach] feels important, but I also have a job to do,” Lieberman said. “Working with men shoulder-to-shoulder is normal. I’ve done this my whole life.”

“Regardless of what her gender may be, the fact is she knows the game of basketball,” Daniels said. “She has played against men, she has played against women, and she has

played well at all levels, so you have to be able to respect that.”

Lieberman is not the only basketball legend involved with the team. After more than 35 years in basketball, former NBA head coach Del Harris fills the role as general manager, and 1986 NBA Slam Dunk champion Spud Webb serves as the president of basketball operations.

“From the very beginning, we filled this organization with past, present and future legends of basketball,” Nelson said. “With Nancy leading the way, every one of our play-

ers has a chance to be called up to the big leagues.”

Whether or not that call comes for players like Daniels, Williams and Gaines, the Legends team has big plans for its first season.

“We can accomplish a lot, that is for sure,” Daniels said. “We will be a very good basketball team. That is a promise.”

*Douglas Farmer contributes to neighborsgo on behalf of the Texas Legends. Danielle Abril, Frisco/Little Elm editor, contributed to this story.*

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November 19, 2010

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### LEADING THE LEGENDS

Nancy Lieberman, head coach of the Texas Legends, said her main goal was to push players to their next level of skill and be the best defenders in the league.

“We want to find what their maximum [level] is in all areas of this game,” Lieberman said. “Some people coach. We teach.”

The team has been running two-a-day practices, spending about five-and-a-half hours on the court a day. Lieberman said she’s been drilling the team to play



Nancy Lieberman

through execution, energy and effort, and said the players have been receptive to the coaching staff.

“They’re working their tails off,” she said. “Our guys get it. They’re invested.”

Lieberman said the team is ready to put their hard work on the hardwood for their inaugural season.

“We want to make sure we represent this community the right way, and we will,” Lieberman said. “We want to win from the beginning.”

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### LEGENDS’ NEXT 10

Nov. 26	At Idaho	8 p.m.
Nov. 27	At Idaho	8 p.m.
Nov. 30	VS. Austin	7 p.m.
Dec. 3	VS. RGV	7p.m.
Dec. 4	VS. Tulsa	7 p.m.
Dec. 11	At Fort Wayne	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 12	At Fort Wayne	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	VS. Tulsa	7 p.m.
Dec. 17	At Dakota	7 p.m.
Dec. 18	At Dakota	7 p.m.

Home games at Dr Pepper Arena  
2601 Avenue of the Stars  
Frisco, 75034

See complete 2010-11 schedule  
at [texlegends.com](http://texlegends.com)

### LEGENDS ROSTER

Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	College
Pierce Caldwell	G	6-3	200	Incarnate Word
Keith Clark	F	6-8	245	Oklahoma
Antonio Daniels	G	6-2	195	Bowling Green
Justin Dentmon	G	5-11	185	Washington
Reece Gaines	G	6-6	210	Louisville
Andre Gatlin	F	6-6	210	Louisiana State
Reece Hampton	F	6-5	195	Adams State
Kelvin Lewis	G	6-4	195	Houston
Rashad McCants	G	6-4	201	North Carolina
Matt Rogers	C-F	6-11	225	S.W. Baptist
Moussa Seck	C	7-4	220	Senegal
Curtis Terry	G-F	6-5	205	UNLV
Dar Tucker	G	6-4	205	DePaul
Sean Williams	F-C	6-10	235	Boston College
Booker Woodfox	G	6-1	185	Creighton