

## From the Desk of the Chancellor

### Season of firsts

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by Charles R. Bantz

I'm looking forward to the IUPUI Athletics 2014 Tip-Off Luncheon in the Jungle here on campus on Friday. As the men's basketball team scrimmages tonight in preparation for the 2014-15 campaign, one thing is certain. This will unquestionably be a season of "firsts" for the Jaguars.

For starters, the team will be led by new Head Coach Jason Gardner -- a graduate of North Central High School and Mr. Indiana Basketball 1999. Gardner was a four-year All-American at the University of Arizona and prior to coming to IUPUI, served as an assistant coach at the University of Memphis. Jason's drive, experience, and recruiting will show on the floor -- a new floor!

For the first time, the Jags will play regular games at the State Fairgrounds Coliseum. The new location is a beautiful venue -- completely renovated inside and sporting a brand new wood floor showing the IUPUI Jaguar. The fairgrounds location is easy to find with easy-access parking and has a tremendous history with basketball fans! It offers the opportunity to broaden the Jags' fan base with more appeal to the central Indiana community, and allows the entire family to join in the fun-filled game experience.

In another first, Jaguar games will be broadcast on regional and national television an unprecedented 16 times this season -- including 12 of the 13 home games on Hometown Sports and News and ESPN3. Broadcasts also will include the Jags against the Purdue Boilermakers on Nov. 18 on the Big Ten Network.



The new basketball court at the refurbished Fairgrounds Coliseum will serve as the home of this winter's Jaguars men's basketball team.



IUPUI basketball kicks off with a double-header at the coliseum on Friday, Nov. 14, with the men's team battling Indiana State University immediately following the women's basketball season opener against the University of Louisville. For more information, [visit the IUPUI Athletics website](#).

After posting consecutive 20-win seasons for the first time in a decade, the excitement over IUPUI women's basketball is strong. The women's team will host home games in the newly-renovated Jungle. Women's Head Coach Austin Parkinson is ready to guide his team to a third straight incredible season -- buoyed by last year's first post-season victory and second straight appearance in the National Invitation Tournament.

Online ticket sales begin in November. Students are admitted to the games free and bus transportation from campus is provided. For information, [visit the JagSpotsBus website](#).

I invite faculty, staff, students, alumni, community partners and the general public to come aboard the Jaguars basketball express. It's going to be a fun ride. Go Jags!

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