

**LAS VEGAS** – The University of Great Falls women’s and men’s basketball teams are in Las Vegas, Nev. as they host the 2011 Dessert Shootout Classic Basketball Tournament. The games will be played at Las Vegas area high schools. The women’s tournament will be played at Desert Oasis High School and the men’s at Bonanza High School.

The women will be looking to improve on a four and seven schedule and will take on Division II California Baptist in an exhibition game. The Argonaut men go into Vegas winning eleven of twelve and riding a three game winning streak. “This will be a good test for us before we begin conference play, on January 6<sup>th</sup> in Havre.” Men’s Coach Steve Silsby said.

Then Lady Argos begin play at 1:00 pm Wednesday in an exhibition game against California Baptist University, a team in transition from NAIA to NCAA Div II. “We are looking to improve our all around game and step up play before we start our conference games.” Women’s head coach Bill Himmelberg said. On Thursday at 1:00 pm the ladies play The Lady Pronghorns of the University of Lethbridge. The Lady Argos leave Las Vegas for another exhibition game on December 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, against Idaho State University. The ISU game can be heard via the internet at: <http://client.stretchinternet.com/client/idast.portal#>.

The Argo men open play against California Baptist at 4:00 pm on Wednesday. On Thursday the men take on Daemon College at 8:00 pm. Daemon College recruited Silsby out of high school and has former Argo Assistant Coach Mike Maranto and former Argo player Rayshawn Ames on their coaching staff. “It will be good to see some old faces again. Daemon is no slouch; they are coming to play. It will be a good test for our guys.” Silsby said.

On Friday the men stay in Las Vegas to battle on Cal State San Marcos. “This will be a real challenge for us. I would be ecstatic to come back home with three wins in Vegas.” Silsby said. “Realistically, I would be pleased if we play to our potential, no matter what the outcome. We are playing some really tough teams down there. We will see what we are really made of.” Silsby concluded.

The men’s tournament is co-hosted by twenty-fourth Fresno Pacific University and can be followed via the internet at:

[http://www.fpuathletics.com/news/2011/12/26/MBB\\_1226115849.aspx](http://www.fpuathletics.com/news/2011/12/26/MBB_1226115849.aspx)