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MEDIA RELEASE

Queensland Firebirds launch 2010 ANZ Championship season New team captain announced!

The Mission Queensland Firebirds have a challenging ANZ Championship season ahead but with a firing start into the pre-season preparations and a new captain, the team is set to play a starring role in 2010.

The Mission Queensland Firebirds officially began their mission into the 2010 season today with a launch at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Firebirds veteran star and Australian Netball Diamonds representative, Lauren Nourse, was announced as the new team captain for 2010 with 2009 vice captain Clare McMeniman returning to her role this year.

“There was a process the team went through to select captain, vice captain and the leadership group this year and it was a very open and transparent process,” Firebirds coach Roselee Jencke said.

“Lauren Nourse and Clare McMeniman are experienced, mature and very skillful players and they are role models for the Firebirds team and netball in general.”

Jencke said she was happy with what the team had achieved so far this pre-season but acknowledged that the season will be one of the most challenging yet.

“The season will be challenging because of the expectations of having to deliver a quality team performance every week against quality opposition,” Jencke said.

“The competition is going to be extremely even and it is difficult to know which team will set the benchmark in performance and standard this season as the Vixens did in 2009.”

Nourse said she was honored to take on the role as team captain for the 2010 season and believed this was truly going to be the year of the Firebird!

“I couldn’t be happier to be leading such a fantastic group of athletes into the season,” Nourse said.

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“We have high expectations for 2010 and are completely focused on reaching our goal of making the finals for the first time since the beginning of the ANZ Championship season.”

“Our pre-season has been great but we’re now looking ahead to what is going to be a challenging season against the best teams Australia and New Zealand has to offer.”

The year begun on a positive note for the Firebirds with the announcement of the team’s first naming rights sponsor, Mission Foods.

Mission Foods, which is one of the world’s leading flat bread and corn flour producers, signed a three year deal with the Firebirds in January.

“The support from Mission Foods as the naming rights sponsor for the Firebirds is wonderful and we believe that it takes Queensland’s campaign in the ANZ Championship to another level,” said Netball Queensland President Jan Maggacis.

“From all indications our Firebirds are on track and ready to take up the challenge. We are confident under captain Lauren Nourse together with the support of the experienced and talented Leadership Group the Firebirds will be provided with the direction and inspiration required to produce sensational netball and standout performances,” she said.

The Mission Queensland Firebirds will head to the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre on Sunday March 21 to take on the NSW Swifts from 1.50pm.

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