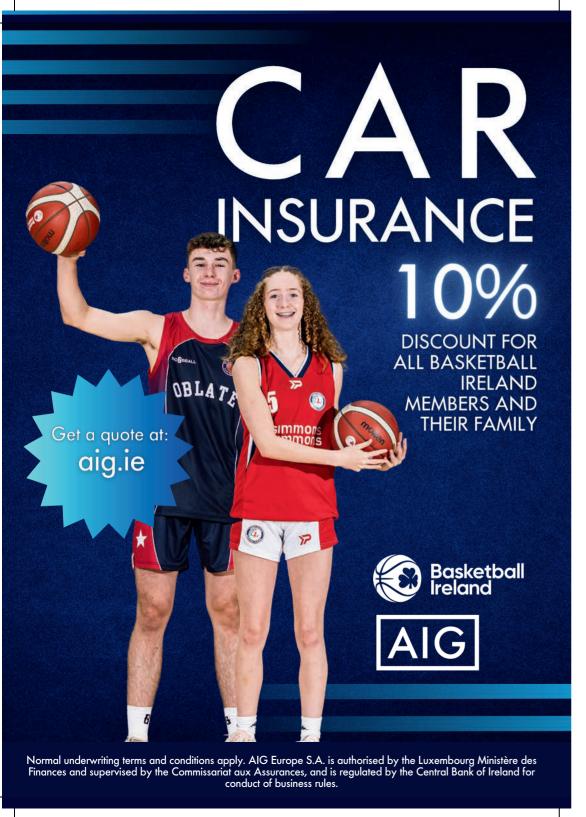




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CEO'S MESSAGE



John Feehan

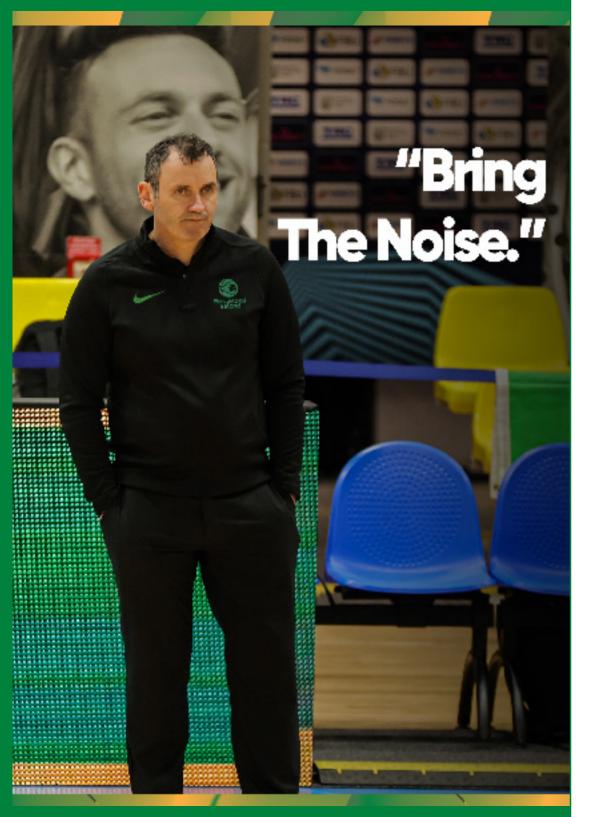
Welcome to the National Basketball Arena for our final fixture of this FIBA Women's EuroBasket 2025 qualifying campaign. It's wonderful to have such super backing for our women's team and I'd like to thank everyone who's come along today to cheer them on once more

James Weldon, his players and backroom staff have delivered a fine qualifying campaign in what was a tough group, but everyone has stepped up. We have seen plenty of debutants throughout and it's great to see so much talent coming through the ranks to senior level, which is a testament to the work being done by our Irish underage coaches, as well at our clubs and schools around the country. It also highlights the promise of what's to come in future FIBA Women's EuroBasket qualifying campaigns.

2024 saw huge progress for the sport, including an increase in playing population of 21.5%, welcoming new partners in Nike and AIG, agreeing a new broadcast partnership with TG4 and receiving planning permission for a redeveloped National Basketball Arena. While we didn't receive funding in the initial round Government's Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) for our new Arena, Basketball Ireland remains in dialogue with key stakeholders and we're determined to take the next steps to deliver on the project, which will be transformative for Irish sport. 2025 is one of huge promise, as we continue the positive momentum generated from the last number of years.

I'm delighted to have the President of FIBA Europe, Jorge Garbajosa, in attendance for this game. An iconic player on the court, he's also worked tirelessly off the court and it's wonderful to see someone of his calibre in the role. FIBA Europe have been a great supporter of Basketball Ireland, including on our return to EuroBasket level and we look forward to strengthening our relationship further over the coming months and years.

Finally I'd like to thank Latvia, who were excellent hosts to us over our three visits to Riga during the qualifying campaign. On behalf of all at Basketball Ireland I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the Latvian team, along with today's referees, table officials and commissioners.





Programme Notes

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all here and thank you for your continued support.

This current campaign has been challenging as some games became geo-politically charged but I am so impressed at how our squad focused on the sporting task in hand namely to try qualify. I am also thankful for the support of Basketball Ireland CEO John Feehan; the Elite Performance Committee (EPC) as well as all the BIHQ and Arena staff throughout this campaign.

The summer games brought a win over the Netherlands and a narrow loss to Den-

mark which helped us move quickly up the FIBA ranking. Our last game against France was memorable and even though there was only a basket between the teams coming up to half time that intensity necessary at the top level was hard to maintain.

It is important to acknowledge how difficult it is for our fully committed home based amateur players to hold down their demanding work schedules while trying to maintain the same rigorous training schedule as professionals without having access to the necessary recovery time.

We do currently have three players on the professionals pathway with Claire and Bridget playing exciting basketball in Spain and Abagail after signing a contract with Oaklands in the UK.

Finally it's fantastic to have our captain back. Edel brings a special energy to the group and has managed her recovery exceptionally well. A special shoutout also to our family and close friends who our commitment to this programme affect the most, a big thank you for your unwavering support.

Please bring the noise tonight it's a special place when it's a FIBA game.

James Weldon Ireland Head Coach



MEET THE SQUAD

Edel **Thornton** Gurranabraher Credit

Union Brunell





Abigail Rafferty Oakland Wolves England

Aine O'Connor FloMAX Liffey Celtics





Amy Dooley Midlands Park Portlaoise **Panthers**

Bridget Herlihy Unicaja Baloncesto Spain





Claire Melia University of Ferrol, Spain

Hazel Finn FloMAX Liffey Celtics





Kate Hickey SETU Waterford Wildcats

Lauryn Homan Gurranabraher Credit





Michelle Clarke Killester BC

Sarah **Hickey** SETU Waterford Wildcats





Sorcha **Tiernan** FloMAX Liffey Celtics

MEET THE STAFF

James Weldon







Jillian Hayes Asst. Coach SETU Waterford Wildcats



loannis Liapakis Asst. Coach **UCD** Marian

9



LATIVA SQUAD

3 Elizabeth Bulane
4 Paula Strautmane
6 Kathy Wichman
12 Anette Steinberga
16 Ilze Jacobson
18 Laura Melder
23 Lina Member
31 Louise Silas
33 Kitty Lax
35 Kate Wolf
44 Katrina Ozola

Martin Gulbis - Head coach
Aigars Nerips -Coach
Matīss Rožlapa - Coach

45 Digna Strautmane

Anda Eibele - Volunteer trainer

Elvis Brokans - Volunteer trainer

Sandy Button - Volunteer trainer

Ivars Ikstens - Fitness trainer

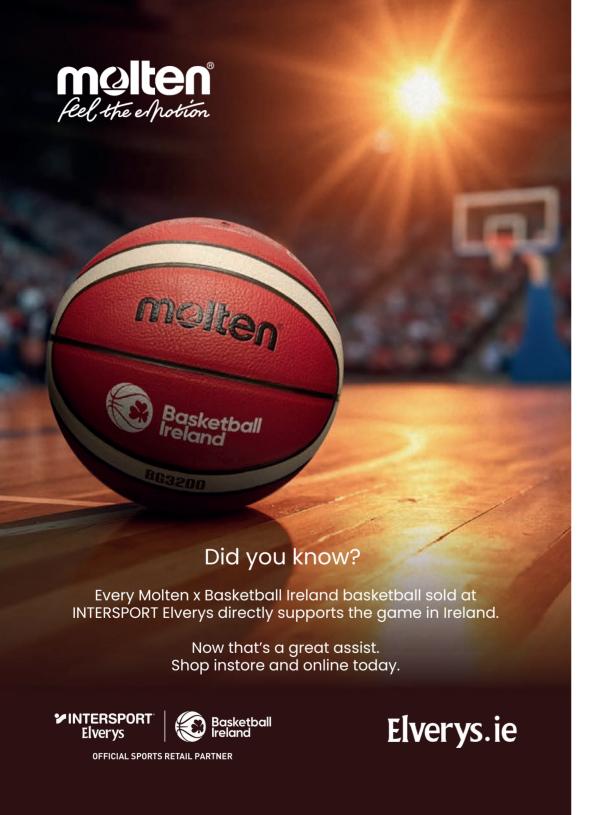
Martin Pulveris - Doctor

Marcis Jakovic - Doctor

Toms Abeltins - Physiotherapist

Ansis Member - Physiotherapist

Eddie Eglitis -LBS Women's Team Coordinator





STUDENT OF THE GAME

Do you know your referee signals?



SUBSTITUTION



TIME OUT



PERSONAL FOUL



UNSPORTSMANLIKE FOUL



PUSHING FOUL



TRAVELING VIOLATION



SHOT CLOCK VIOLATION



STOP CLOCK

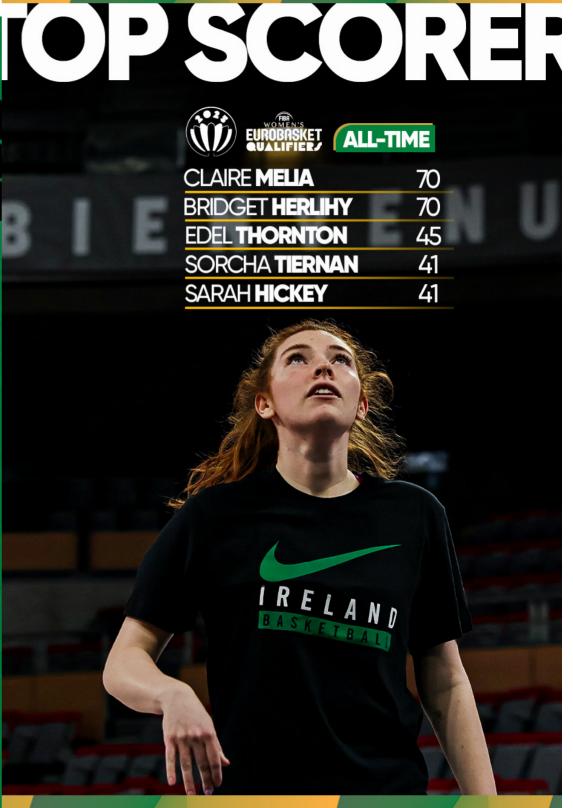
ECURTSIDE 1

GET CLOSER TO THE ACTION!

Sign up today for behind the scenes content, ticket pre-sales, exclusive member competitions, partner offers and more!



ireland.basketball/courtside



KIDS @ ZONE

CAN YOU SPOT FIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO PHOTOS?







- 1. She is the current Ireland senior women's captain.
- 2. She led her club Gurranabraher Credit Union Brunell to last season's Paudie O'Connor National Cup.



LET'S SING THE ANTHEM!

Sinne Fianna Fáil, atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn, Buíon dár slua thar toinn do ráinig chugainn, Faoi mhóid bheith saor, Seantír ár sinsear feasta,

Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill. Anocht a théam sa bhearna bhaoil, Le gean ar Ghaeil, chun báis nó saoil, Le gunna-scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar, Seo libh canaig' amhrán na bhFiann.

JP NEX

