

MEDIA RELEASE

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NICHOLSON SET TO REJOIN TORNADOES IN 2018

The Bellamy's Launceston Tornadoes are excited to announce the signing of WNBL shooting guard and 2017 Tornado Lauren Nicholson for the 2018 SEABL season.

Nicholson, 24, proved herself as a very versatile player last season often shutting down the oppositions best offensive guards as well as being a strong scorer and rebounder herself.

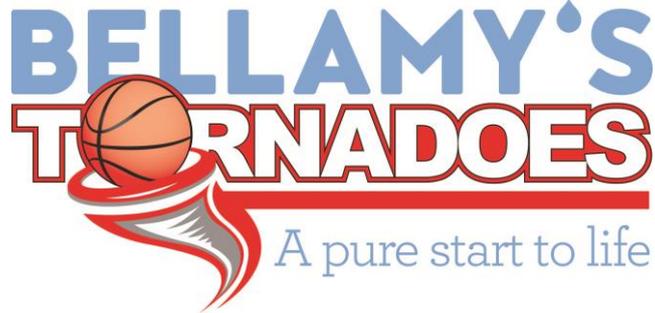
During the 2017 SEABL season with the Launceston Tornadoes Nicholson averaged 17 points, 7 rebounds and 2 assists per game, highlighted by a season high 32 points in the Conference Elimination final against the Hobart Chargers. She also shot at an amazing 86% from the free throw line last season making 88 from 102 attempts.

In recognising Nicholson's outstanding season last year Tornadoes Chair Janie Finlay said "Lauren was an amazing recruit for us last season in her first year at the club. She fitted smoothly into our basketball program and the community from day one. She quickly became a crowd favourite and respected by everyone involved with the club."

"It was her ability to fight and scrap for every possession, bring others into the game and be a leader on and off the court that lead her to being awarded the 'Debbie Black Award'. This award recognises the clubs inaugural Captain who was a player who always put her team mates first. Would do whatever it took to gain possession of the ball; dives, chases and hustles every possession. She was a leader on and off the court and represented the club in an impeccable manner. Lauren was a deserved winner last year of this award and we are looking forward to her taking an even bigger role around the team this season." Finlay added.

New Tornadoes Head Coach Derrick Washington commented on the recent signing of Ally Wilson and Nicholson saying "They are both great versatile players. They will really help us stretch the floor, plus both Ally and Lauren can put the ball on the deck and get to the basket. I am looking forward to arriving in Tasmania and starting to work with them and the other players soon."

Playing for the Adelaide Lightning in the WNBL this season the 178cm guard averaged 8 points, 4 rebounds and 2 assists per game in her role as the starting guard.



Nicholson said of her signing this week "I am really excited to be returning to the Launceston Tornadoes for the upcoming season. This last WNBL season was extremely competitive but I enjoyed it and hope to bring that experience back to the Tornadoes. We have a great core group of younger players coming through and hopefully my experience and leadership can help bring them along. I can't wait to get back to Launceston and hopefully win a championship for all the sponsors and fans that continuously give their support every year. "

Nicholson was part of the Sydney Flames WNBL squad between 2009 and 2011 before making the move to the United States to play College basketball. After returning to Australia she played with the Tornadoes in 2017 before signing with the Adelaide Lightning in the WNBL this season.

Nicholson is the second signing for the Launceston Tornadoes with more player announcements to follow soon.

The club is holding a tryout for local players at Elphin Stadium on Thursday 11 January at 6pm.

Information about all the Tornadoes home games and season memberships can be purchased through the Tornadoes website www.tornadoes.com.au .

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