

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 11 January 2018

TORNADOES SECURE LOCAL STAR FOR 2018

The Bellamy's Launceston Tornadoes are thrilled to announce the return of local star Ellie Collins, committing to the club for the 2018 season. Ellie has been working hard over summer rehabbing her hip and getting ready to bring her best game and 3 point prowess to the SEABL competition in 2018.

In her first season for the Tornadoes in 2017 Collins, 19, averaged 9.2 points, 4.8 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game. She also shot a confident 42% from 3-point range for the season.

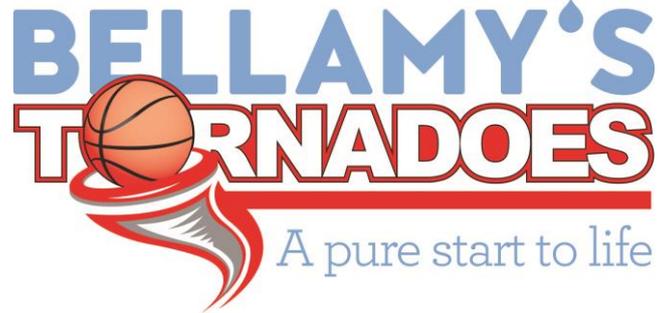
Collins suffered a serious hip injury early in the season and was restricted to only 13 games with her standout game being against Melbourne in Round 3 where she shot 22 points and 4 from 6 from the 3-point line.

Tornadoes Chair Janie Finlay said "Ellie had a great year with us last season and we expect her to take another step forward this season. She had a really positive attitude while she was out injured and was an asset to have around the club. We are excited she has agreed to come back and play with us this season as we believe she has a bright future ahead of her."

Collins had a great year playing in the local women's competition leading the Penguin Blues to winning the State League Final and collecting the league Most Valuable Player award. She was also awarded the MVP for the recent North West Under 22 competition, where so also played for Penguin.

Having moved to Launceston at the beginning of 2017 to study a Bachelor of Education (Primary) Degree at the University of Tasmania, Collins will be involved with delivering the Tornadoes 'Basketball in Schools' program this year to Primary Schools across the north of the state.

"I am very excited to be returning to the Tornadoes this season. I am looking forward to being coached by Derrick and mentored by the older, more experienced players coming back to the club. I really enjoyed my first season with the club and interacting with sponsors, supporters and the community last year. I can't wait for the season to start and to see how far we can go as a team." Collins said.



Collins is another key piece of the puzzle for the Tornadoes as they look to finalise their team roster over the coming weeks. She joins Ally Wilson and Lauren Nicholson as players returning to the club for 2018.

The club is holding a tryout for local players at Elphin Stadium on Thursday 11 January with a second hit out planned for early February when Head Coach Derrick Washington is due to arrive in Launceston.

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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Contacts:

Executive Officer - Corey Ackerly: 0417 037 337