**New look Lightning squad announced for 2014 ZEO Netball SuperLeague**

Loughborough Lightning has announced their squad for the 2014 ZEO Netball SuperLeague season, which contains a blend of New Zealand experience and home grown youthfulness.

Head coach Marg Foster and her assistant Shelley Norris have chosen to bring in three New Zealand ‘import’ players into the squad, who all have ANZ Championship experience.

Elizabeth Hayman and Moniek van Rossum from Canterbury Tactix and Jessie Waitapu from the Waikato Bay of Plenty Magic will be joining up with the squad in the New Year.

The squad also sees the return of two former Lightning favourites.

PE teacher and Welsh international Becky James will re-join Lightning for a crucial season in which she will be seeking selection for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Defender Nicola Caunt from Nottinghamshire also makes a welcome return to the squad, after playing for Lightning in 2011.

The home grown youthfulness comes from Eleanor Durcan and Emily Watson, who have both graduated from Lightning’s Netball Performance League squad to be selected for the senior team this year.

The other new players in the squad are Rochelle Powel, recruited from the Yorkshire Jets, Holly Sims who joins from the Mavericks Youth squad, and korfball international Neala Brennan.

Returning from last year’s squad are students Fran Desmond, Florence Edwards, Hannah Joseph, Olivia Mason and Lauren Steadman from Derby.

Jo Emmett, Loughborough Lightning Franchise Director, said:

“We have lots of exciting new developments with both the coaching and the playing team this year. Everyone has been working hard over the last few months and now is the time to translate it into match play.

“We have a mixture of experience and youthful talent in our team. With extended Sky Sports coverage and ZEO on board as the new NSL sponsor, we are definitely looking forward to a successful 2014 season!”

Lightning will start their 2014 ZEO SuperLeague season with a home fixture against Yorkshire Jets on Saturday 1st February. Tickets are now on sale via the Loughborough Lightning website.

<http://loughboroughsport.com/loughborough-lightning/tickets/>

**Loughborough Lightning squad for 2014 ZEO Netball SuperLeague**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Defenders**  Nicola Caunt  Fran Desmond  Lauren Steadman  Moniek Van Rossum | **Shooters**  Elizabeth Hayman  Rebecca James  Olivia Mason  Rochelle Powell  Jess Waitapu |
| **Midcourt**  Neala Brennan  Eleanor Durcan  Florence Edwards  Hannah Joseph  Holly Sims  Emily Watson |  |