Hornets On FOX Sports New Orleans

The New Orleans Hornets and FOX Sports New Orleans will begin their first year of bringing a variety of both home and road games into the homes in the Greater New Orleans area and throughout the Gulf South region.

FSNO will broadcast 75 regular season games. FSNO is available statewide on cable, satellite and telco providers.

With the new affiliation comes a new broadcast team, with Joel Meyers (play-by-play), ex-Hornet David Wesley (color analysis) and Jen Hale (sideline reporter) all in their first year broadcasting Hornets games.

FOX’s agreement includes a live 30-minute pre and post-game show as well as additional programming.

Radio Network Flagship Station – WWL 105.3FM

All 82 regular season games, the entire preseason (excluding the opening game in Mexico City) and the Hornets’ entire playoff schedule will be heard on the team’s flagship station, WWL 105.3FM in New Orleans, as the Hornets enter their first of multi-season agreement with Entercom Communications.

Sean Kelley begins his eighth season as the radio voice of the Hornets, while John DeShazier begins his first season as color analyst. Kelley & DeShazier will also host a weekly Thursday night coach’s show with Hornets head coach Monty Williams.

2012-13 RADIO AFFILIATES

New Orleans Flagships:
WMTI, 106.1-FM

Louisiana Affiliates:
KDBS, 1410-AM
Alexandria

WEMX, 94.1-FM
Baton Rouge

KFRA, 1390-AM
Franklin

KJIN, 1490-AM
Houma

KPEL, 1420-AM
Lafayette

KBZE, 105.9-FM
Morgan City

WWL FM 105.3
NEW ORLEANS

KNBB 97.7FM
Ruston/Monroe

KTIB, 640-AM
Thibodaux

Mississippi Affiliates:
WCJU, 104.9-FM
Columbia

WSFZ, 930-AM
Jackson

Florida Affiliates:
WBSR, 1450-AM
Pensacola

Covering The Hornets

Jimmy Smith
Times-Picayune

John Reid
Times-Picayune

Gary Kirby
Director, FSNO

Matt Sharp
Graphics, FSNO

Scott Solky
Producer, FSNO
With responsibilities that include serving as the team’s official spokesman, overseeing all internal and external communications and being the primary liaison between the club and national and local media, Sr. Vice President of Communications Greg Bensel enters his 16th season with the Saints. In addition to overseeing all communications efforts for the Saints, Bensel begins his first season in the same role for the New Orleans Hornets.

Bensel was promoted to his current position after serving for nine seasons as director of media & public relations. In addition to managing his staff, his duties include working with the NFL’s network media partners, media operations for home and away games and planning the long-range public relations initiatives for the club.

Bensel has also worked on the NFL public relations staffs for Super Bowl XXXII, XXXIII and XXXVI.

Prior to joining the Saints, Bensel was director of media relations for the Super Bowl XXXI Host Committee and the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation. He has also served on the media committee for the NCAA Men’s Final Four, the SEC Men’s Basketball Tournament and the Sugar Bowl.

A New Orleans native who graduated from Jesuit High School and Tulane, Bensel started his professional career as a media relations administrator for the Professional Golfers Association in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He served on the public relations staff for the 1991 PGA Championship, the 1991 Senior PGA Championship and the 1991 Ryder Cup.

Bensel and his wife, Jane, reside in New Orleans and have a daughter, Kate, and a son, Nelson.

Entering his first season with the Hornets as the team’s television play-by-play announcer, Joel Meyers brings over 25 years of broadcast experience to the organization. Meyers comes to New Orleans after six seasons as the Los Angeles Lakers’ television play-by-play announcer (2005-11) and two as the Lakers’ radio play-by-play announcer (2003-2005). Meyers won two Emmy awards in his time as Lakers’ television play-by-play man and previously served four years as the voice of San Antonio Spurs’ television broadcast.

Having worked for ESPN for more than a decade calling college football, college basketball and professional golf, Meyers has also worked for NBC covering the NFL, two Olympic Games, as well as the NBA and professional golf.

In addition, Meyers has worked Sunday nights for CBS/WestwoodOne for the past 10 years and will continue to call NFL action, while also calling Big 12 college football on FSN every Saturday night.

A St. Louis native, Meyers attended the University of Missouri. He and his wife, Carol, have two sons, Drew and J.J. They reside in Hidden Hills.

David Wesley joins the Hornets broadcast crew for his first season as a color analyst. Wesley has spent the past two years as an assistant coach for the NBA’s Texas Legends following a 14-year NBA career. First landing with the Nets as an undrafted free agent for the 1993-94 season, Wesley went on to spend time with the Boston Celtics (1994-97), Hornets (1997-2005), Houston Rockets (2005-2006) and finally the Cleveland Cavaliers (2006-07). Wesley was part of the inaugural Hornets team that began play in New Orleans in the 2002-03 season.

During his career, the 6’0” shooting guard recorded career numbers of 12.5 points, 4.4 assists and 2.5 rebounds. He did not miss a game for three-consecutive seasons between 1998-99 and 2000-2001 and also played all 82 games in 1995-96. He finished fourth in the NBA in three-point field goal percentage in 2002-03 and participated in the 2003 Three Point Shootout contest at All-Star Weekend.

Wesley ranks near the top in a number of Hornets franchise categories, including minutes played (second), three-point field goals made (second), steals (third), points (fourth), assists (fourth), games played (fourth), field goals made (fourth), free throws made (fifth), assists per game (sixth) and steals per game (seventh).

Upon retiring in 2007, Wesley ranked second all-time (behind Moses Malone) in NBA history among undrafted players with 11,842 career points.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Wesley attended Longview High School. He played one year of basketball at Temple College before transferring to Baylor University for his last three years. Wesley finished his college career at Baylor in 1992. Wesley is married to wife Shannon and is the proud father of four children: Brittany (21), Hallie (12), Jada (10) and David Jr. (8).
Jen Hale - Sideline Reporter

Jen Hale begins her first season as the Hornets' sideline reporter on FOX Sports New Orleans broadcasts. Hale is an award-winning sports journalist, who began her career as a political reporter and news anchor, before returning to her passion of sports.

Jen also works as a sideline reporter for the NFL on FOX and as a sports anchor at WVUE FOX 8 in New Orleans. She has won multiple Edward R. Murrow awards, as well as Emmy and AP Awards throughout her career.

Born in New Orleans, Jen grew up in Mobile, Ala., where she ran track, played softball and was a competitive gymnast. She returned to Louisiana to attend LSU's Honors College where she majored in Political Science. Jen was a captain of the LSU Cheerleading Squad, Miss LSU, LSU Homecoming Queen, a member of Delta Zeta Sorority and the Golden Key Honor Society.

Jen earned her Master of Science in broadcast journalism from Northwestern University in Chicago, Ill. She also attended The Fund for American Studies' Institute on Political Journalism at Georgetown University and completed a certificate on Irish Culture and Politics at University College Dublin in Ireland.

Jen published her first book, Historic Plantations of Alabama's Black Belt, in 2009 and is now working on her second publication.

Philanthropy is a big part of Jen's life. From volunteering at Lafayette Academy Charter School, to working with the New Orleans Junior League to returning to Baton Rouge to emcee the Miss LSU pageant, which is sponsored by Delta Zeta and benefits Alzheimer's research and the Speech and Hearing Impaired Foundation, Jen is very active in the community.

Jen is a proud resident of the historic French Quarter. She enjoys running, cycling, cross fit and TRX. She also loves to ski and surf when vacations allow.

Sean Kelley - Radio Play-by-Play Announcer

Sean Kelley enters his eighth season as the radio play-by-play voice of the Hornets in 2012-13. Prior to joining the Hornets full time, he spent two seasons as the team's primary radio studio host while also doing occasional play-by-play work in a fill-in role on Hornets radio broadcasts.

Kelley served as the voice of the Tulane Green Wave from 2002-2005. While in that role, he provided play-by-play for the school's football, basketball and baseball action. He was also the host of the Tulane coach's television and radio shows. In addition to his work at Tulane, Kelley filled in as both radio play-by-play announcer and public address announcer for the New Orleans Zephyrs, the city's AAA baseball franchise.

Prior to his work with Tulane, Kelley was with KFRU-AM in Columbia, Mo., from 1999-2002. He was the station's sports director, anchor and host while doing play-by-play for the University of Missouri baseball team and also spent two years as the pre-game, halftime and post-game host for the Missouri Tiger Radio Network. Kelley's broadcast experience during that time also included work on the prep circuit announcing football and basketball on radio and television in Missouri and Illinois.

Kelley earned a degree in broadcast journalism from Southern Illinois University. He provided play-by-play for the Southern Illinois baseball and women's basketball teams from 1996-1998 and also spent time as sports director, anchor and host at WTAO-FM in Carbondale, Ill. Throughout his career, Kelley has worked as a talk show host, anchor and reporter at various special events, including the ACC Basketball Tournament. Away from basketball, Kelley serves as a volunteer firefighter with St. Tammany Parish Fire District 13.

Kelley and his wife, Kimberly, have two children, Keighley and Colin.

John DeShazier - Radio Color Analyst

John DeShazier begins his debut season with the Hornets' radio broadcast team, serving as the color analyst on all broadcasts, in addition to co-hosting the Monty Williams weekly show on WWL-AM 870 and making regular editorial contributions to Hornets.com.

Prior to joining the Hornets, DeShazier was a sports columnist and writer for The Times-Picayune in New Orleans from 1992-2012. During those 20 years, he covered and provided commentary on local and state teams, including the Hornets, and also covered events including the NBA Finals, multiple Super Bowls, the 2008 NBA All-Star Game, the NCAA Final Four, the BCS National Championship Game and the Sugar Bowl.

DeShazier was honored by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association four times for writing the top high school or pro sports column in the state and once by the Louisiana/Mississippi Associated Press Managing Editors for having written the top sports column.

A native of Macon, Ga., DeShazier graduated from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Ga., in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism. He has been a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. since 1985, and is active in the New Orleans graduate chapter, Theta Beta Sigma.

DeShazier lives in Harvey, La. He and his wife, Yetoria, have a son, Trey.
Having joined the organization at the time of its inception in the summer of 1988 directly upon graduation from college, Harold Kaufman now enters his 23rd season with the Hornets heading up all communication aspects for the organization.

Kaufman, who serves as the team spokesman, oversees all media and public relations aspects including publications and all sports and corporate publicity efforts involving the team and organization.

All statistical material, media guide, press releases and press conferences are prepared by or arranged through his department while the communications group serves the day-to-day needs of the local and national media by arranging interviews and facilitating coverage of the Hornets players and personnel.

Kaufman is a member of the Public Relations Society of America and was voted as runner-up for the Outstanding NBA Eastern Conference Public Relations Director award by writers and broadcasters nationwide in 1992 when the NBA changed the award to a lifetime achievement recipient annually. He also has served a couple of terms sitting on the NBA’s PR Advisory Board.

Dennis Rogers begins his 10th season with the Hornets, his fifth season as director of basketball communications. Rogers has moved up the ranks of the Hornets communications department, serving every role in the department at some point, on his way to his current role.

Rogers oversees all internal and external communications of the team’s players and coaches. He also oversees all daily aspects of the department, including acting as a team spokesman, editor of the media guide and post-season guide, traveling with the team on road trips, writing news releases, fulfilling player and staff interview requests both locally and nationally, while maintaining statistical upkeep of player performances. He is also a regular contributor to Hornets.com.

Rogers served as the director of public relations for the NBA Summer League (formerly the Vegas Summer League) where he coordinated all PR duties for the league and wrote all content for the website and the media guide. Rogers served as the director of public relations for the NBA Summer League from its inception in 2004 until 2008 as it grew from a six-team league to a 21-team league in just four summers. He currently serves as an assistant to the summer league, promoting the league through all aspects of social media.

Prior to joining the Hornets, Rogers served as a basketball operations assistant for Momentum Sports Agency in San Antonio and interned with the Dallas Cowboys during the 2002 season. Rogers graduated from Southern Methodist University with a bachelor’s degree in corporate communications and public affairs with a minor in religious studies. He served as the graduate assistant under head coach Rick Stansbury for the Mississippi State men’s basketball team during the 2000-01 season, during which the Bulldogs were 18-13 and appeared in the Elite Eight of the NIT Tournament, while pursuing his master’s in sports administration in Starkville.

Born in Los Angeles, but raised in Texas, Rogers grew up in Dallas and San Antonio and is an avid Texas Rangers and Texas Longhorns fan. Within the community, he is involved with 504ward, PlayNOLA, SPCA, Young Leadership Council, the Sugar Bowl, PRSA and is a recruitment volunteer for SMU in New Orleans. He lives in the Warehouse District of New Orleans.

Jim Eichenhofer begins his eighth season with the Hornets as publications and new media manager.

Eichenhofer is the primary writer for Hornets.com and the team’s GameTime program. Since coming to the NBA in 2005, he has organized and directed many of the multi-team features that have appeared on NBA.com and individual team websites.

Prior to joining the Hornets, Eichenhofer was a sportswriter for daily newspapers in Genev, NY, and Auburn, N.Y., earning an Associated Press award for column writing. He has written over 100 feature articles for national basketball magazines SLAM, Inside Stuff and HOOP, interviewing and profiling NBA players such as Yao Ming, Chris Bosh, Chauncey Billups and Pau Gasol. His lengthy article on the Hornets’ promising future, titled “The Big Sting,” appeared in the 2008 NBA All-Star Game program. He has also appeared as a guest on NBA TV and numerous sports radio talk shows.

The Western New York native is a graduate of Ithaca (NY) College.
Calder Hynes - Basketball Communications Coordinator

Calder Hynes begins his third season with the Hornets, his second in the role of basketball communications coordinator after serving as a basketball communications intern his first year with the club. In his position, Hynes' responsibilities include producing game notes, media guides and all other department publications, assisting with the credential process, writing news releases, maintaining statistical information, as well as traveling with the team on designated road trips and facilitating interviews with members of the national, local and international media. He is also a contributor to Hornets.com.

Prior to joining the Hornets, Hynes was a public relations staff assistant with the Miami Dolphins for the 2009-10 NFL season and was a media relations intern for the 2010 ATP/WTA Sony Ericsson Open in Miami, FL. In December 2009, Hynes earned a masters degree with honors distinction in Sport Administration from St. Thomas University (FL) while working in the school's athletic department, including serving in the role of sports information director. While in Miami, Hynes also gained media relations experience in a variety of sporting events including Super Bowl XLIV, the 2010 Pro Bowl, the 2010 FedEx Orange Bowl and the 2009 World Baseball Classic and volunteered in various press operations involving ex-President Bill Clinton.

He has continued his professional growth while in the Crescent City, assisting the media operations for the 2011 and 2012 Allstate Sugar Bowl, 2011 NCAA Men’s Basketball Regional Finals and 2010 NFL Kickoff Weekend.

The Tucson, Arizona native graduated summa cum laude from the University of Arizona with a degree in art history in 2008 while working for the athletic department his senior year as a website and marketing intern. He is a member of both the Phi Beta Kappa and Kappa Gamma Phi honors fraternities as well as the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity. Hynes and his fiancé Lisa live in New Orleans and are set to wed next summer.
Media Credentials

Single game requests should be directed to the Hornets communications office no later than noon the day before the game you wish to cover (Friday at noon for Sunday and Monday games). First-time requests must be in written form on company letterhead and received by the aforementioned deadline. Because of limited press seating, credentials and/or courtside seats cannot be guaranteed. Credentials are good for admittance to the press room, dining area, locker rooms and seating areas and may be picked up at the press entrance (located at the loading dock entrance, which is across the street from Lot #4 at the New Orleans Arena). Credentials must be worn at all times and are non-transferable. Any unauthorized use will subject the bearer to ejection from the arena and the forfeiture of the credential. An autograph request by a media member will also result in the forfeiture of the credential.

Press Parking/Press Gate

Working media should park in Lot #4 (off of Girod Street) and cross the street to enter the New Orleans Arena through the doors by the loading dock. You will be able to pick up your credential at a table in front of the security office upon entering the arena. Your name will be on a parking list held by the security guard at the entrance of the lot.

Press Room

The press room is located at the west end of the arena to the right of the main entrance. It is four hours before game time. We must limit press room usage to the working media and game staff only. We are not able to accommodate any family, friends, or guests. Telephones, fax service, internet access, game notes, statistics, quotes and out-of-town scores are available in this area. Please use common courtesy in securing a quiet working environment in the press room.

Pre and Post-Game Interviews

In accordance with NBA policy, the locker rooms are open to members of the media until 45 minutes before the game and within 10 minutes after the game. Players and coaches are available for interviews at those times. Only working members of the media with valid credentials will be admitted to the locker room. Your cooperation is requested in maintaining a professional atmosphere in the locker room for pre and post game interviews. Per NBA policy, use of cellular phones in the locker room is prohibited. Head Coach Monty Williams will be available 90 minutes prior to tip-off and approximately 10 minutes following the game in the press room.

Game Notes and Statistics

Game notes and additional press materials are available in the press room three hours before each game. Statistics are distributed to the working media during the game and are also available in the press room. Post-game notes and quotes are distributed a short time following the completion of the game. Statistics monitors are provided at courtside for television and radio broadcasts as well as for print and television media.

Photographers

Season passes will be provided to accredited photographers from New Orleans area daily newspapers and television stations who plan on covering at least 30 of the Hornets’ 41 regular season home games. Weekly newspaper photographers will be handled on an individual game basis. Photographs are also available from the communications department. Photographers must be on assignment for a publication to be credentialed. Limited space is available at each end of the court for both television and still photographers. Photographers must stay in the designated area. Photographers may not sit on equipment cases and live television cameras have first priority on location and right of way. All NBA league rules regarding photography apply.

Meals

A pre-game meal is served in the room adjacent to the media workroom at the arena two and a half hours before each game. Beverages and snacks are available in the press room at halftime and following each game.

Practice Policy

The Hornets practice at the Alario Center in Westwego, located off of the West Bank Expressway (2000 Segnette Boulevard). Media should enter through the main entrance of the building (adjacent to the box office window) and park in the general parking lot. Parking in the turnaround area is not permitted, and violators will be towed. Practices are closed to the public, but open for the final 30 minutes to the media. The players and coaches are available immediately following the practice for courtside interviews. Please contact the Hornets communications department to confirm practice times and the availability of the players and coaches. Interviews lasting longer than five minutes should be scheduled in advance with the Hornets communications department. Photographers and television crews may shoot the final 30 minutes of practice. There is a press area with phone access available to the media throughout practice.

Directions From the N.O. Airport (Louis Armstrong) to the N.O. Arena

Follow airport access road to I-10 East. Go approximately eight miles, stay in the right lanes at I-10/I-610 split (after Bonnabel Blvd. Exit) and follow I-10 Eastbound towards downtown New Orleans. Go approximately three miles after the split, stay in the middle lanes and take the Superdome Exit. Turn right at the end of the ramp onto Girod Street. The arena is in the first block on your right. Driving time is approximately 30 minutes, but allow 45 minutes during rush hour.

Directions From the N.O. Airport (Louis Armstrong) to the Alario Center (Practice Site)

Follow airport access road to I-10 East. Take Clearview Parkway Southbound. Follow Clearview Parkway, proceed onto Huey P. Long Bridge. At traffic circle at the end of the bridge, take second exit and follow US 90 Westbound. Go approximately 1.75 miles and follow signs to West Bank Expressway. Alario Center will be approximately 1.5 miles on your right. The address is 2000 Segnette Boulevard. Driving time is approximately 40 minutes.

Directions From Downtown N.O. to the Alario Center (Practice Site)

Take the Crescent City Connection Bridge (US 90 W/Pontchartrain Expressway) towards the Westbank (will become Westbank Expressway). Continue on expressway as it goes to ground level. Stay on the ground level as it goes through Marrero and Westwego. You will pass Bayou Segnette State Park on your left. The second traffic light from there will be Segnette Blvd. Turn left at the light into the Alario Center.