



Northern Arizona's Professional Indoor Football Team

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Albuquerque franchise joins Adrenaline in West Division

PRESCOTT VALLEY – The American Indoor Football Association officially added a new team with a new arena on Friday. And the Arizona Adrenaline will be its first guest. The New Mexico Wildcats are the league's 16th and final franchise and will join the Adrenaline, the Utah Saints and the Wyoming Calvary in the West Division of the Western Conference when the AIFA begins play in March.

The Wildcats will play their home games at the new Santa Ana Star Center, a 6,100-seat arena located in the Albuquerque suburb of Rio Rancho, N.M. The facility is owned by Phoenix-based Global Entertainment Corporation, which also owns Prescott Valley's Tim's Toyota Center, home to the Adrenaline.

"This was the missing piece in the puzzle to secure the West for the coming season," said AIFA co-founder John Morris. "We wanted to make sure this team would have solid ownership and a first-class facility. We couldn't be happier with the way things turned out."

The New Mexico franchise is owned by Colorado businessman Steve Mascarenas. The team will play its early-season games on the road before the Adrenaline help introduce football to the building on April 26. The league is expected to release the complete Western Conference schedule early next week.

"We're happy to see the West Division finalized, and I think New Mexico will be a great rivalry for us," Adrenaline co-owner Wade Cunningham said. "And of course because of our proximity to Albuquerque it helps us from a travel standpoint."

The South Division, which consists of Augusta, Columbus, Florida and Mississippi makes up the other half of the league's Western Conference. The top finisher in the West will meet the No. 2 team in the South, while the South No. 1 will host the West No. 2 in the playoffs. The team emerging from the West will then travel to the home of the Eastern Conference champion for the AIFA Championship Bowl II in late July.

The AIFA also announced an agreement with Global Entertainment that grants the league the right to first refusal for indoor football in all of Global's current and future facilities. Reportedly, Global is also considering venues in Yuma and Bullhead City.