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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WYOMING CAVALRY CEASE OPERATIONS**

(Casper, WY) The owners of the Wyoming Cavalry Professional Indoor Football team announce that the team will not play in 2015, what would have been the 16<sup>th</sup> season.

“It is with great sadness that the Cavalry will not participate in the 2015 season,” says Cavalry majority owner, Mitch Zimmerman. “The Cavalry has enjoyed great fan, community and sponsor support over the past 15 years, and we thank each and every one of you. Thanks to the coaches and players. Thank you also to the numerous volunteers that helped with game day and feeding the players. I would like to personally thank the Laytons for all their hard work and dedication in running the team; it has been a pleasure working with them.”

“The decision to not bring the team back for the 2015 season was not an easy one,” continues Zimmerman. “However, with the changing times, declining attendance, and other factors outside of our control, we feel we have no choice but to close this chapter of professional indoor football in Wyoming.”

It is no secret that the Cavalry struggled on the field over the past three seasons, with a record of 6-36. Head Coach Dan Maciejczak (Coach Majic) led the team in 2012 to a 4-10 record and Coach ‘L’, Ryan Lingenfelder, led the team to a record of 2-26 the past two seasons.

After three trips to the championship games in the American Indoor Football Association (AIFA), the Cavalry joined the Indoor Football League (IFL) in 2011; under Maciejczak, the Cavalry ended their IFL inaugural season with a 9-5 record. The 2011 season was the last time the Cavalry played past the regular season, ultimately losing to the Allen Wranglers in the first round of the playoffs.

The Cavalry joined the AIFA for the 2008 season after the demise of the National Indoor Football League (NIFL). The Cavalry, under Maciejczak, ended their three year tenure in the AIFA with a 36-6 record. The team lost to the Florence (SC) Phantoms 48-12 in 2008 in AIFA Bowl II and to the Baltimore (MD) Mariners 57-42 in 2010 in AIFA Bowl IV. The Cavalry hosted the Reading Express on July 26, 2009 in AIFA Bowl III, but were defeated 65-42.

The Cavalry hired Maciejczak in 2007 upon the resignation of head coach Shannon Moore (2005-2006). The Cavalry ended their NIFL regular season with only one loss; they were defeated 52-45 by the San Diego Shockwave, an expansion team. The Cavalry traveled to North Carolina in July 2007 to play the Fayetteville Guard in the Budweiser Indoor Football Championship Bowl - a game that was televised thanks to K2TV, numerous sponsors, Guard owner Richard King and AIFA President John Morris. Unfortunately, the Cavalry came up short, losing to the Guard 48-34.

During the 2005 and 2006 seasons, under head coach Shannon Moore, the Cavalry finished their regular seasons with 10-4 and 8-6 records, respectively, and earned playoff spots both years. In 2005, the Cavalry hosted their first home playoff game since the 2001 season, ultimately losing to the Tri Cities Fever. In 2006, the Cavalry traveled to Kennewick, WA to, once again, face the Fever in the first round of playoffs, and once again, were defeated and eliminated from the rest of the post season.

The Cavalry's roots are traced back to the year 2000; the Casper Cavalry began play as an expansion team in the 'original' Indoor Football League (IFL). Head Coach Chris Stein led the team to a respectable 9-5 record and playoff spot. The Cavalry lost (68-34) to the Black Hills Machine in the first round of the post season. After the season, the entire league was purchased by the Orlando Predators.

Due to the positive response from Wyoming fans regarding indoor football, the City of Casper along with local business men and women formed an ownership group, and the Wyoming Cavalry, along with 17 other teams, became a charter member of the NIFL in 2001.

Under the leadership of Scott Hafley, the Cavalry ended their first regular season in the NIFL with an 8-6 record. The team defeated both the Utah Rattlers and the Sioux Falls Storm in the playoffs to earn their way into their first appearance in a championship game. The Cavalry traveled to Biloxi, MS to play the Mississippi Fire Dogs in Indoor Bowl I - their first bowl game appearance. Unfortunately the Cavalry were defeated 55-21.

During the 2002 and 2003 seasons, under head coach Tyrone Fittje, the Cavalry recorded a 7-21 record. Chris Stein was brought back to lead the team in 2004; the Cavalry ended their 2004 regular season with a 5-9 record, and again, no post-season play.

"We enjoyed championship years and years that didn't seem to go our way," says Zimmerman. "We know the Cavalry will be missed."

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