

Elyse Jobin returns home for hoops journey

■ Former high school standout will play with Laval at this weekend's Don Grant Classic

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Elyse Jobin doesn't get to play many basketball games in her hometown.

Too bad for her. And too bad for Moncton.

Jobin and basketball fans in her hometown will be treated this week when the 21-year-old guard leads the Université Laval Rouge et Or

into the seventh annual Don Grant Classic university women's basketball tournament,

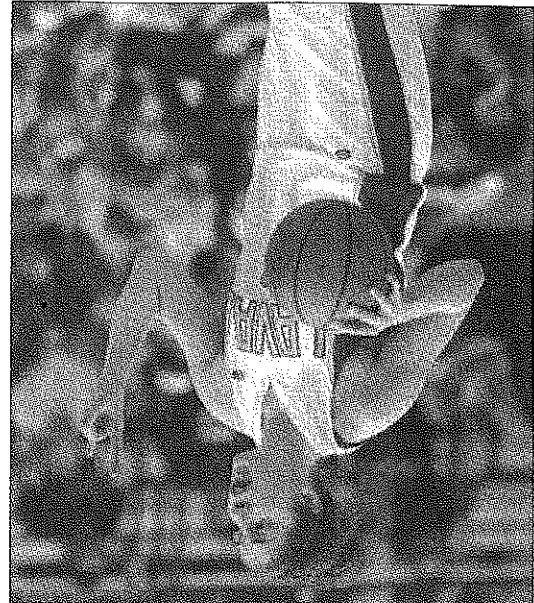
which starts Friday and runs through the weekend at the Moncton Coliseum.

"I'm very excited about coming home to play with my family and friends watching our

games," said Jobin, who averaged 13 points and 31 minutes of playing time per game with the Rouge et Or last season.

"This might be my last chance to play in Moncton," she said. "I hope we can have some good games and play good basketball for the people of Moncton. Chances like this don't happen very often so I'm looking forward to it."

Jobin played for the Mathieu-Martin



Moncton's Elyse Jobin will be in the Laval Rouge et Or lineup at the Don Grant Classic.

YAN DOUBLET/LAVL

Vedettes in Grades 9-10 before heading to the National Elite Basketball Development Academy in Hamilton, Ont. for her final two years of high school.

Jobin played her first season with Laval in 2008 and she was a member of Canada's national junior team in 2008-09.

"I have great memories of my time at Mathieu-Martin, but I've enjoyed all of the challenges that basketball has given me," said Jobin, who broke her leg as a member of the Rouge et Or in 2009.

Laval has finished sixth at nationals twice and seventh once during Jobin's time with the Rouge et Or.

"This year, we've got the same goal as we do every year," she said. "We want to get back to nationals. We feel like we've got a better team this year than last year so we expect a better finish."

"McGill is our toughest rival in our conference. They're very strong. They went to nationals last year with just one fifth-year player so they'll be the team to beat again. We're looking forward to some great battles with them."

"The Rouge et Or will prepare for those battles by playing three difficult games at the Grant Classic.

Laval faces the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds on Friday at 6 p.m., the St. Francis Xavier X-Women on Saturday at 6 p.m. and the Acadia Axewomen on Sunday at 1 p.m.

"The Maritime teams always play a very physical style so it should make for some very interesting games," Jobin said.

"Quebec teams are tough. If you want to contend at nationals, you have to play a lot of different styles. There are big teams, small teams, physical teams and highly-skilled teams. You have to be ready for them all."

University of Saskatchewan Huskies and the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers will also compete in the Grant Classic.

Moncton Kiwanis Minor Basketball Association will sponsor a free coaching clinic tomorrow from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Coliseum. The clinic is open to all minor, middle school and high school coaches.

UNB coach Jeff Speedy will focus on defensive skills and Moncton Miracles coach Norris Bell will run a session on offensive skills.