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# McKay's Clan Flocks North of the Border

November 02, 2007 | Todd Wetmore

First-year head coach Ritchie McKay got a head start on the upcoming 2007-08 season by taking his squad on a brief Canadian Tour over the Labor Day weekend.

The NCAA allows basketball programs to participate in trips abroad every four years. Last year, Big South Conference champs Winthrop traveled to Australia in August. The trip helped the squad during a momentous season, one which saw them claim a first-round victory in the NCAA Tournament.

The Flames defeated both their opponents during the excursion, but more importantly, the squad gained an added advantage on its competition with nearly two extra weeks of practice. The Canadian advantage involved a little sightseeing, as well, adding to the team's bonding experience.

After a victory over Brock University, the team took the famous Maid of the Mist boat tour of Niagara Falls. "The trip was invaluable in terms of bonding and having a chance to see some of God's beautiful creation," said McKay.