

BENDAT BASKETBALL CENTRE

332. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I am aware that the state government's Western Australian Basketball Centre was officially renamed this morning. Can the minister please provide some details on this announcement?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

I thank the member for the question.

I was delighted this morning to go to the WA Basketball Centre, now known as the Bendat Basketball Centre, to officially —

Mr D.J. Kelly: The what?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is the Bendat Basketball Centre.

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Members are very funny; very droll! I actually think it is appalling, because if members opposite —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Right! Is everybody finished?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Members opposite are incredibly disrespectful towards an individual in this state who has contributed enormously to basketball over the years. He has not only contributed to a hugely successful elite basketball team, but also worked very closely with grassroots sports and philanthropic organisations across the state in education, health—the whole lot. It was therefore auspicious on his ninetieth birthday, which is today, for us to go there and announce that we have reached an agreement that the WA Basketball Centre will be renamed the Bendat Basketball Centre going forward. Dr Bendat, as members would know, is the owner of the Perth Wildcats and has also recently purchased the women's basketball team —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen and everybody else talking, we cannot hear the minister. It is upsetting the member for Albany! Member for Girrawheen!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The women's basketball team has also been rebranded the Perth Lynx. Dr Bendat now has ownership of the women's basketball team in Western Australia, and we hope that it will continue to grow with the same fortunes that the Perth Wildcats have had. The naming rights agreement was announced this morning with Dr Bendat—I am getting some information from the member sitting to my right that apparently that is incorrect—his family and the basketball fraternity. However, it was a great pleasure to him, as he has made a significant contribution. The arrangement will actually provide ongoing benefits to the Bendat Basketball Centre and to those community groups that use it.

For those members who do not know, Jack Bendat migrated to Perth from California. Since he has been here, he has become well known for his business exploits, but also in 2002 he was named WA Citizen of the Year for his extensive philanthropic work with youth, arts, sport, health and medicine. Members will be familiar with the Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre. He was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2009 Honours List for service to the community through philanthropic contributions to a range of charitable and cultural organisations. It was therefore wonderful to go there today on his ninetieth birthday. His family came over from Melbourne and surrounded him during that announcement. His contribution will flow directly into the upkeep of the basketball centre—for those members who are unaware, VenuesWest co-manages the centre with Basketball WA—and for the 6 000 community members who use the centre. There is a strong synergy between what Dr Bendat has contributed and what the centre represents. It was indeed a fantastic morning to join with him and his family. It is a great outcome for the basketball community and it is due recognition of Jack Bendat's contribution.