

Experience Headlines USA Roster For 2018 Nike Hoop Summit

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (March 13, 2018) – The 2018 USA Basketball Men's Junior National Select Team for the 21st annual Nike Hoop Summit will feature four international medalists, seven players with at least one USA Basketball training camp under their belt and one USA Basketball rookie.

The USA will be led by 2017 FIBA U19 World Cup bronze medalists **Romeo Langford** (New Albany H.S./New Albany, Ind.) and **Cameron Reddish** (Westtown School/Norristown, Pa.) and 2015 FIBA Americas U16 gold medalist **Tre Jones** (Apple Valley H.S./Apple Valley, Minn.).

Suiting up for the USA with prior training camp experience will be **Darius Bazley** (Princeton H.S./Cincinnati, Ohio); **Bol Bol** (Findlay College Prep, Nev./Olathe, Kan.); **Darius Garland** (Brentwood Academy/Brentwood, Tenn.); **Tyler Herro** (Whitnall H.S./Greenfield, Wis.); **Keldon Johnson** (Oak Hill Academy/Sterling, Va.); **Anfernee Simons** (IMG Academy/Altamonte Springs, Fla.); and **Zion Williamson** (Spartanburg Day School/Spartanburg, S.C.).

David McCormack (Oak Hill Academy/Norfolk, Va.) will be taking part in his first event with USA Basketball.

Additionally, **Louis King** (Hudson Catholic H.S./Columbus, N.J.), who also was a member of the bronze medal winning 2017 USA U19 World Cup Team, will attend the 2018 Nike Hoop Summit as a member of the U.S. team but is unable to participate due to injury.

DeMatha Catholic High School (Md.) head coach **Mike Jones** was selected head coach of the 2018 USA team for the Nike Hoop Summit, while 1996 Olympic gold medalist **Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway**, head coach at Memphis East H.S. (Tenn.), will serve as the USA's assistant coach.

Jones also led the USA Nike Hoop Summit Team in 2013 and 2014, and he served as a USA Nike Hoop Summit assistant coach in 2012 and 2017. He was a USA assistant coach for the gold medal winning 2011 U16 and 2012 and 2016 U17 teams and for the 2004 USA Basketball Youth Development Festival East team.

Hardaway returns to USA Basketball after having recently served as a court coach alongside Jones at the 2017 USA Basketball Men's Junior National Team October minicamp. As a player, Hardaway was a member of three USA Basketball teams including the gold medal winning 1996 U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team.

The Nike Hoop Summit is an annual basketball game that pits the best U.S. high school senior boys against top international players from around the world who are 19 years old or younger in a one-game showdown.

The 2018 edition will be contested at 7 p.m. (PDT) on Friday, April 13, at the Moda Center in Portland, Oregon. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com, the Rose Quarter Box Office or by calling [800-745-3000](tel:800-745-3000). Courtside seats are \$50 and \$75, while lower bowl seating starts at \$10. Applicable service charges apply.

"I am truly excited to be working with such a tremendous group of young men who are so talented," Jones said. "The chance to work alongside Penny Hardaway, knowing his passion for the game and his ability as a coach, is an honor that I don't take lightly."

"The prior experience I have with USA Basketball, coupled with the playing experience of many of the players with USA Basketball, allows for us all to approach this game with a focus to prepare and represent our country with pride. The future is so bright for these young student-

athletes and to have the chance to work with them in their final high school basketball experience is special. I can't wait to get to work."

Nine athletes have signed a National Letter of Intent, one has verbally committed and two –Langford and Simons – are undecided. Committed to Duke University are Jones, Reddish and Williamson (verbal); Herro and Johnson signed with the University of Kentucky; Bazley signed with Syracuse University; Bol and King signed with the University of Oregon; Garland signed with Vanderbilt University; and McCormack signed with the University of Kansas.

All 12 U.S. team members are ranked among the top 28 in the ESPN 100 for the class of 2018, including Williamson second, Reddish third, Bol fourth, Langford fifth, Johnson sixth, Simons seventh, Bazley ninth, Jones 12th, Garland 13th, King 14th, Herro 25th and McCormack 28th.

While all 12 listed on the Naismith Trophy High School Boy's Preseason Watch List, named to the 2018 Naismith High School Boys All-America first team were Bol, Langford, Reddish and Williamson; while Johnson and Jones were second team honorees; Bazley and Garland listed on the third team; and King and Simons were honorable mention.

Additionally, Jones (Minnesota) was the 2017 and 2018 Gatorade State Player of the Year, and other 2018 Gatorade state honorees were Garland (Tennessee), Johnson (Virginia) and Langford (Indiana).

The 2018 World Select Team roster, which is expected to be announced in late March, will include top players from FIBA Africa, FIBA Americas, FIBA Asia and FIBA Europe, with the approved sanctioning of FIBA, the governing body of international basketball.

USA Basketball teams, winners of the past two Nike Hoop Summits, have compiled a 14-6 overall advantage all-time in the Nike Hoop Summit.

An incredible 203 former members of the USA or World Select Team have been drafted by NBA teams, including 13 players in the 2017 NBA Draft. And, as of Dec. 12, 2017, a remarkable 72 former U.S. players and 33 former World team members were active in the NBA. Additionally, 36 former Hoop Summit players are currently competing on the collegiate level, including 23 U.S. players and 13 World Team athletes.

<http://www.nikehoopsummit.com/news>

About USA Basketball

Based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and chaired by retired Gen. **Martin Dempsey**, USA Basketball is a nonprofit organization and the national governing body for basketball in the United States. As the recognized governing body for basketball in the U.S. by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), USA Basketball is responsible for the selection, training and fielding of USA national teams that compete in FIBA-sponsored five-on-five and 3x3 international competitions, as well as for some national competitions and for the development of youth basketball. The USA Basketball Men's Developmental National Team Committee is responsible for selecting U.S. players and coaches for the Nike Hoop Summit.

The USA Basketball Youth Development division is tasked with the development of youth basketball initiatives that address player development, coach education and safety, while promoting, growing, and elevating the game. USA Basketball is committed to providing youth throughout the country safe, fun and developmentally appropriate environments in which they can enjoy the game. Current USA Basketball youth initiatives include coach licensing and education; organization accreditation; coach academies; regional camps; youth clinics; open

court programs; Women in the Game conferences; and the U.S. Open Basketball Championships.

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