



## 2018 NIKE HOOP SUMMIT: WORLD TEAM ANNOUNCED

The 12-member World Team for the 2018 Nike Hoop Summit features many of the world's leading basketball players age 19 years old or younger. The 21st annual Nike Hoop Summit will take place at the Moda Center in Portland, Oregon, on Friday, April 13, 2018.

The annual game pits the World Team against the USA Basketball Junior National Select Team, which is composed of elite, American high school players. This year's World Team features a high number of international players who have chosen to play high school basketball in the United States. Three Montverde Academy (Fla.) players lead this year's version of the World Team.

Beyond the Hoop Summit's prestige, participation in the game is seen as a step towards professional play. As of December 2017, a remarkable 72 former U.S. players and 33 former World Team members were active in the NBA, nearly one-quarter of the entire league, and a total of 203 Hoop Summit alumni have been drafted professionally.

Tickets for the 2018 Nike Hoop Summit are on sale now. Lower bowl seating starts at just \$10 and courtside seats are \$50 and \$75. Applicable service charges apply. Tickets will be available through [Ticketmaster](#), the Rose Quarter Box Office or by calling 800-745-3000.

The 2018 Hoop Summit World team is led by **RJ Barrett**, the versatile 6-foot-7 Canadian forward currently attending Montverde Academy in Florida, who is committed to Duke University. Point guard **Andrew Nembhard**, attending University of Florida in the fall, forms a dynamic duo at Montverde Academy alongside Barrett.

**Jaylen Hoard** and **Charles Bassey** are rising stars and examples of the 2018 World Team's athleticism and length. Hoard, a 6-foot-8 small forward currently playing at Wesleyan Christian Academy in North Carolina hails from France and will attend Wake Forest. Bassey, a 6-foot-10 big man from Nigeria, is one of eight World Team players who has yet to make a decision on where they will play next year. He is ranked No. 3 by ESPN for the 2019 draft class.

An explosive athlete at 6-foot-6, shooting guard **Josh Green** is known for playing above the rim. A native of Australia, Green moved to the United States in 2014 with his family and currently plays for IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida.

**Kevin Zhang**, a native of Shenyang, China, competed for Montverde Academy with Nike Hoop Summit teammates Barrett and Nembhard last season. The 6-foot-8 power forward has been touted for his impressive range and quick first step.

Lithuanian-born **Ignas Brazdeikis** hails from Canada and is committed to play for the Michigan Wolverines next year. A big wing player at 6-foot-8, Brazdeikis is a dynamic left-handed scorer.

A University of Minnesota signee and native of Nigeria, **Daniel Oturu** is the top-ranked recruit from the state of Minnesota. Ranked the No. 6 center in his class by ESPN, the 6-foot-10, Oturu excels at protecting the rim.

At age 17, **Leandro Bolmaro** is one of the younger players on the World Team this year. The 6-foot-6 swingman, known for his strong outside shooting, plays for Weber Bahia Estudiantes in Argentina. Earlier this year, Bolmaro was selected to the All-Star team at the Basketball Without Borders Global Camp in Los Angeles.

**Bathiste Tchouaffe**, a 6-foot-5 wing player from France, has a great shooting touch and is a solid defensive player. As team captain, he led his team to a gold medal finish at the FIBA Europe U-18 Championship in 2016.

A 5-foot-9 point guard, **Yago Dos Santos** hails from Sao Paulo and is considered the top prospect in Brazil. The 19-year-old has recently been starting as point guard for his country's senior national team. A native of Mali, **N'Faly Dante** is the youngest member of the World Team this year. ESPN's No. 9-ranked member of the 2020 class, Dante is a 6-foot-11 center who currently resides Wichita, Kansas.

#### **THE ATHLETES: 2018 NIKE HOOP SUMMIT WORLD TEAM**

Jaylen Hoard (6'8", Wesleyan Christian Academy, North Carolina and France) SF

RJ Barrett (6'7", Montverde Academy, Florida and Canada) SF

Andrew Nembhard (6'4", Montverde Academy, Florida and Canada) PG

Josh Green (6'6", IMG Academy, Florida and Australia) SG

Kevin Zhang (6'8", Montverde Academy, Florida and China) PF

Leandro Bolmaro (6'6", Weber Bahia Estudiantes, Argentina) SG

Yago Dos Santos (5'9", Club Atletico Paulistano, Brazil) PG

Charles Basseley (6'10", Aspire Academy, Texas and Nigeria) C

N'Faly Dante (6'11", Sunrise Christian Academy, Kansas and Mali) C

Bathiste Tchouaffe (6'5", Nanterre 92, France) SG

Ignas Brazdeikis (6'8", Orangeville Prep, Canada) SF

Daniel Oturu (6'10", Cretin-Derham Hall, Minnesota and Nigeria) C

Details on the previously announced USA team can be found [here](#).

#### **THE COACHES**

The World Team will be led by eight-time Nike Hoop Summit coach **Roy Rana**, who currently has a 3-4 record in the series and, in 2013, became the first coach in Hoop Summit history to lead his team to back-to-back victories. In August 2017, Rana was named head coach of the Canadian men's basketball team for the 2017 FIBA AmeriCup and the qualifiers for the 2019 World Cup. He will again be assisted by Serbia's **Marin Sedlacek**, who is making his 18th Hoop Summit appearance.

#### **THE HISTORY**

The United States holds a 14-6 advantage in the Nike Hoop Summit. In addition to victories in

2012, 2013 and 2015, the World Team triumphed in 1996 in Charlotte, North Carolina, by a 104-96 margin; in 1998 in San Antonio, Texas, when Dirk Nowitzki famously recorded 33 points and 14 rebounds in a 104-99 victory; and in 2009 by a 97-89 margin at the Rose Garden.

World Hoop Summit alumni playing for NBA teams as of December 2017, included: Alexis Ajinca (Pelicans); Nicolas Batum (Hornets); Anthony Bennett (Nets); Davis Bertans (San Antonio Spurs); Bismack Biyombo (Orlando Magic); Clint Capela (Houston Rockets); Omri Casspi (Kings); Cheick Diallo (Pelicans); Joel Embiid (76ers); Dante Exum (Utah Jazz); Evan Fournier (Magic); Serge Ibaka (Magic); Nikola Jokic (Denver Nuggets); Cory Joseph (Raptors); Enes Kanter (Oklahoma City Thunder); Skal Labissiere (Kings); Trey Lyles (Jazz); Thon Maker (Bucks); Boban Marjanovic (Pistons); Patrick Mills (Spurs); Nikola Mirotic (Rockets); Donatas Motiejunas (Rockets); Emmanuel Mudiay (Nuggets); Jamal Murray (Nuggets); Raul Neto (Jazz); Lucas Riva Nogueira (Raptors); Dirk Nowitzki (Mavericks); Tony Parker (Spurs); Sergio Rodriguez (76ers); Dario Saric (76ers); Dennis Schröder (Atlanta Hawks); Luis Scola (Nets); Kevin Seraphin (Pacers); Ben Simmons (76ers); Tristan Thompson (Cavaliers); Karl Towns Jr. (Timberwolves); Andrew Wiggins (Timberwolves); and Kyle Wiltjer (Rockets).

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