

27th ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECTIVE: **SUPERSTARS AND SUPER MEMORIES FROM THE PAST**

Their success on the basketball court makes them recognizable on a first-name basis: Magic and Michael. But for these men and their counterparts, it hasn't always been this way. Many all-star basketball players receive their first taste of national Television, big-time competition and lofty achievement as high school students in the McDonald's All American Game.

"Playing in the McDonald's All American High School Basketball Game gave me an opportunity to compete against the greatest players in the United States," said Michael Jordan, a 1981 All American who held the record for most points scored (30) in the Game for 18 years. "I was just beginning to pursue basketball as a career and was questioning my skills. That game helped build my confidence."

The following is a brief look back at highlights from the past 26 years of McDonald's All American High School Basketball Games:

Cleveland, OH, 2003

One of the most talented groups in All American history put on a show at Cleveland's Gund Arena. Many of the record-setting crowd of 18,728 came to see local hero LeBron James (Akron St. Vincent St. Mary High School/Cleveland Cavaliers) play his last high school game in the state of Ohio. Game MVP James didn't disappoint, leading the all scorers with 27 points while grabbing seven rebounds and dishing out seven assists as the East team defeated the West 122-107. James and the East squad took control of the game early and refused to let the West team back in the game. Chris Paul (Wake Forest) had a game high 10 assists and Charlie Villanueva (Connecticut) scored 17 points and had some spectacular dunks for the East. Shannon Brown (Michigan State) scored 23 points and Leon Powe (California) had a game high 12 rebounds and scored 15 points to pace the West.

Earlier in the day, the Second Annual Girls Game tipped off at the Gund. For the second straight year, the West dominated the East winning 92-72. Game MVP Katie Gerald (Purdue) led the all scorers with 17 points, four assists and three rebounds for the West. Erin Lawless (Purdue) also contributed 16 points for the West. The East team was lead by sharpshooter Ivory Latta (North Carolina) and Cori Chambers (Georgia) who had 12 points each.

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New York, NY, 2002

Historic Madison Square Garden was the site for the 25th Anniversary Boys Game and the Inaugural Girls Game. Home to the NBA New York Knicks and the WNBA New York Liberty, the 2003 McDonald's All American Teams only added to the rich tradition of this historic basketball mecca. The Inaugural Girls Game was one for the record books as the West defeated the East 94-85 behind co-MVP Ann Strother (University of Connecticut) and her 21 points. Co-MVP Shanna Zolman (University of Tennessee) contributed 21 points, seven steals and five assists for the East team.

In the second game of the night, the boys celebrated 25 years of basketball excellence in a high scoring affair as the East overpowered the West 138-107. Game MVP, J.J. Redick (Duke), of the East team poured in 26 points, while converting on five of six of his three point attempts. Rashad McCants (North Carolina) and Carmelo Anthony (Denver Nuggets) also contributed to the East victory by scoring 22 points and 19 points respectively. The West team was paced by Bracey Wright (Indiana) who scored 16 points and pulled down 11 rebounds and Dee Brown (Illinois) who dished out eight assists to go along with four steals.

Durham, NC, 2001

The 2001 team put on an all-star performance at Duke University's Cameron Indoor Stadium. The Game featured a fourth quarter West team comeback to win the Game, 131-125. Top-scorer Eddy Curry (Chicago Bulls) was named Game MVP and helped lead his team to victory with 28 points and eight rebounds. Teammates Kelvin Torbert (Michigan State) and David Lee (Florida) each contributed 21 points. Leading the East team with 25 points and seven rebounds was Dajuan Wagner (Cleveland Cavaliers). Team member James White (Florida) scored 19 points, Kwame Brown (Washington Wizards) and Julius Hodge (North Carolina State) each finished the game with 17 points. The West team and East team are now neck-and-neck, both with 12 wins, just in time for the 25th anniversary Game.

Boston, MA, 2000

Facing a sellout crowd of 18,624 at the FleetCenter in Boston and a live primetime national television audience, the 2000 team put on quite a show as the West team defeated the East team 146-120. Game MVP Zach Randolph (Portland Trailblazers) helped contribute to the West's win by posting 23 points and 15 rebounds. Teammate DeShawn Stevenson (Utah Jazz) had an equally impressive night with 25 points – the highest for the night. While the East team was not able to pull off a victory, they still had quite a successful night. Andre Barrett (Seton Hall) had 12 assists, the second highest in Game history – beating out Brett Nelson's (Florida) 11 assists from the 1999 Game. Additionally, Darius Rice (University of Miami) scored 24 points for the night.

Ames, IA, 1999

At the Hilton Coliseum on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, the 1999 team displayed their talents in a record-breaking game before a crowd of more than 10,000. The West team defeated the East in the highest-scoring Game in its 22-year history – 141-128. Jonathan Bender (Indiana Pacers) broke the record for the most points scored in a Game, hitting 31 points and beating Michael Jordan's 1981 Game high of 30 points. Bender also posted 10 rebounds, giving him the MVP honors of the Game. Carlos Boozer (Cleveland Cavaliers) and Casey Jacobsen (Phoenix Suns) also helped contribute to the West win by posting 22 points each. Brett Nelson (Florida) added to the superior West team performance by tying the game's second-highest assist record with 11. The Game was broadcast live on ESPN for the second consecutive year.

Norfolk, VA, 1998

The 21st Game took place before a sold-out crowd of 10,000-plus at the SCOPE Arena in Norfolk, Va., where the East defeated the West 128-112. Ronald Curry (UNC), the hometown hero, was the MVP after posting 19 points and 13 rebounds. East teammate Jason Capel (UNC) contributed 22 points. Sharing West team high honors with 19 points each were Quentin Richardson (Los Angeles Clippers), and JaRon Rush (UCLA). The Game, which was colored by slam dunks and no-look passes, was televised live on ESPN for the first time. Overall, the East leads the West with 12 wins to the West's nine.

Colorado Springs, CO, 1997

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Game at the United States Air Force Academy's Clune Arena in Colorado Springs before an energetic crowd, the East defeated the West 94-81. Elton Brand (Los Angeles Clippers) led the victorious East squad with 16 points and nine rebounds, while Dion Glover (Atlanta Hawks) hit 15 points in only 17 minutes of action. MVP Kenny Gregory led his West teammates with 18 points and dazzled the crowd with several creative slam-dunks. West teammate Larry Hughes (Golden State Warriors) contributed 17 points and a team high nine rebounds. Leading all players, Lamar Odom (Los Angeles Clippers) brought in 11 rebounds.

Pittsburgh, PA, 1996

Before an enthusiastic Civic Arena crowd of 13,411, MVP Shaheen Holloway led the East to a 120-105 victory in this fast-paced, high-flying competition. Holloway (seven points, eight assists, six steals) brought the crowd to its feet with a fast-break, between-the-legs bounce pass to Vassil Evtimov, 14 points, 11 rebounds, who capped off the play with one of the game's 27 thunderous dunks. Winfred Walton came off the bench to pace the West with 21 points and seven rebounds and Corey Benjamin added 17 points. Stephen Jackson led the East in scoring with 21 points on eight of 10 shooting while Kobe Bryant (Los Angeles Lakers) added 13 points and three assists.

St. Louis, MO, 1995

MVP Kevin Garnett (Minnesota Timberwolves) displayed his enormous talent before a record crowd of 16,201 enthusiastic fans, leading the West to a 125-115 victory. The 6-foot-10 forward finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Garnett garnered support from Paul Pierce (Boston Celtics), who put up a game high of 28 points, one of eight players in double digits for the West. The East was paced by Ron Mercer (San Antonio Spurs), who contributed 19 points.

New York, NY, 1994

Before a sell-out crowd of 6,008, MVP Felipe Lopez of New York City scored 24 points and Zendon Hamilton of Long Island scored 15 points as they led the East to a thrilling 112-110 victory on what is now their home court at St. John's University. For the West, Jerod Ward led a balanced scoring attack with 23 points. Antoine Walker (Dallas Mavericks) pitched in 18 points and Trajan Langdon, the first McDonald's All American from Alaska, scored 13. Three vicious dunks by Andrae Patterson helped the West cut a 13-point deficit in the final three minutes.

Memphis, TN, 1993

A sell-out crowd of 10,225 watched high-flying Jerry Stackhouse (Washington Wizards) score 27 points to capture co-MVP honors with Jacque Vaughn (Orlando Magic), who passed his way to an All American record with 13 assists. Stackhouse's East squad won the game, 105-95, as Keith Booth scored 15 points and Dontonio Wingfield added 13 points. Charles O'Bannon and Darnell Robinson led the West with 19 points each.

Atlanta, GA, 1992

Before an Easter Sunday crowd in Georgia Tech's Alexander Memorial Coliseum, MVP Othella Harrington (New York Knicks) totaled 19 points and 21 rebounds to lead the West to a 100-85 victory. Teammates Corliss Williamson (Detroit Pistons) and Jason Kidd (New Jersey Nets) contributed 14 points and 10 rebounds; and 12 points, 6 assists, respectively. Big guns for the East included Carlos Strong with 19 points and Tony Delk (Boston Celtics) who poured in 15.

Springfield, MA, 1991

After Springfield's own Travis Best (Dallas Mavericks) hit the game-tying three-pointer for the East with 22 seconds remaining, the West's Chris Webber (Sacramento Kings) slammed home the decisive deuce in a thrilling 108-106 victory. Webber, co-MVP along with the East's Rick Brunson (Chicago Bulls) scored 28 points (20 points from dunks) and pulled down 12 rebounds. Glenn Robinson (Philadelphia 76ers) added 20 points and eight rebounds to the winning effort. Brunson's 19 points, seven boards and six assists weren't enough for the losing East team. The game was played in sold-out Civic Arena in Springfield, the birthplace of basketball, as part of the sport's centennial celebration.

Indianapolis, IN, 1990

East teammates Khalid Reeves and Clifford Rozier, each with 22 points, sparked a late rally that broke open what had been a close game and paced the East to a 115-104 victory. With his team nursing a two-point lead with just over three minutes left, Reeves scored nine straight points in a 1:18 span to ensure victory. Reeves, who also nabbed a record 10 steals, was named co-MVP with the West's Shawn Bradley (Dallas Mavericks), who scored 12 points, grabbed 10 boards and blocked six shots. East guard Adrian Autry contributed 11 assists.

Kansas City, MO, 1989

Shaquille O'Neal (Los Angeles Lakers) had 18 points, 16 rebounds and six blocks to lead the West to a 112-103 victory, snapping the East's four-game winning streak. O'Neal shared MVP honors with the East's Bobby Hurley, who dished out 10 assists.

Albuquerque, NM, 1988

Alonzo Mourning (New Jersey Nets) scored 16 points and Billy Owens grabbed 14 rebounds as the East made it four straight wins, 105-99 at The Pit on the campus of the University of New Mexico. Mourning and Owens shared the Wooden MVP Award.

Philadelphia, PA, 1987

The Game celebrated its 10th anniversary in The Spectrum, site of the inaugural contest. Brian Shorter poured in 24 points in a 118-110 East triumph, but East teammate Mark Macon (14 points) was voted MVP. Marcus Liberty (18 points) and Larry Johnson led the losing West team.

Detroit, MI, 1986

More than 15,500 fans descended on Joe Louis Arena as MVP J.R. Reid rallied the East from a 12-point deficit to a 104-101 win. The East team ran up 34 fourth-quarter points. Reid scored 23 points and was joined by Rumeal Robinson (19 points) and Steve Hood (16 points). Terry Mills led the West with 20; Derrick Coleman (Philadelphia 76ers) added 16 points and grabbed 15 rebounds.

Dallas, TX, 1985

Moody Coliseum at SMU was sold out as Walker Lambiotte hit for 24 in a 128-98 East romp. Lambiotte drained his first seven shots and went 10-for-12 from the field in his MVP performance. Danny Ferry and Terry Dozier backed Lambiotte with 17 points apiece. Tito Horford and Lowell Hamilton paced the losing West team with 13 points each.

Los Angeles, CA, 1984

The "Dream Game" took place in the house that John Wooden built -- UCLA's Pauley Pavilion. John Williams lit it up for the victorious West, with 27 points and 16 rebounds in a 131-106 final. Williams received support from Indiana co-Mr. Basketballs Troy Lewis (18 points) and Delray Brooks (16 points).

Atlanta, GA, 1983

In the game's final eight seconds, the West came from behind to win 115-113. An Omni crowd of 15,000 saw Winston Bennett hit 21 points and Pearl Washington (11 points, eight assists) share MVP honors. James Blackmon helped the winners with 21 points, while Tom Sheehey added 22 points for the East.

Chicago, IL, 1982

A crowd of 15,836 packed the Rosemont Horizon to witness a 103-84 West blowout victory. The West's Efreem Winters rocked the hometown fans with 19 points in an MVP performance. Only teammate Kenny Walker, with 20, outscored Winters. Dell Curry (Toronto Raptors) poured in 20 points for the East and teammate Billy Thompson added 15 points.

Wichita, KS, 1981

With 11 seconds remaining, Michael Jordan hit both ends of a one-and-one to lead the underdog East team to a 96-95 thrilling victory. Jordan's 30 points, a record held for 18 years (broken by Jonathan Bender of the Indiana Pacers in 1999 with 31 points), wasn't enough to capture the MVP award, which was shared by the East's Adrian Branch (24 points) and the West's Aubrey Sherrod (19 points).

Oakland, CA, 1980

Bay area fans witnessed a 135-111 West victory at the Oakland Coliseum, as Russell Cross scored 20 points to earn the Wooden Award. Doc Rivers also scored 20 points for the West. Sam Perkins added 12 points and grabbed a still-existing record 24 rebounds for the East.

Charlotte, NC, 1979

Arguably the best senior class of all-time, the 1979 All American Game included Ralph Sampson, Dominique Wilkins, Isiah Thomas, James Worthy, John Paxson and Byron Scott. Thomas and Paxson paced the East to a 106-105 overtime victory, scoring 19 and 14 points, respectively. Darren Daye's 22 points earned him MVP honors for the losing West.

Philadelphia, PA, 1978

The first McDonald's All American Game took place at The Spectrum. Rudy Woods pulled down 16 rebounds to pace the West's 94-86 triumph and was named the first Wooden Award winner. Mark Aguirre scored 17 points for the West and Daryl Mitchell poured in a game-high 20 points for the losing East.

First McDonald's Team Named, 1977

In 1977, the first McDonald's All American Team® was named. Headlining the squad were future NBA stars Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Albert King and Gene Banks. The Team participated in the Capital Classic in Washington, D.C. against an all-star team from the Washington - Maryland - Virginia area.

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