



## PRESS RELEASE

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## **ALONZO MOURNING NAMED AMBASSADOR OF McDONALD'S® ALL AMERICAN GAMES AS 30TH ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES**

*Co-MVP of 1988 Games Takes Prep Showcase to New Heights  
By Educating Future NBA, WNBA Role Models on Sportsmanship and Charity*

**OAK BROOK, Ill. (February 16, 2007)** – Alonzo Mourning of the defending NBA Champion Miami Heat was today named the first ambassador of the McDonald's All American High School Basketball Games, the annual all-star showcase that benefits Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®).

Mourning will help shape the future of the McDonald's All American Games while inspiring and educating the top players of tomorrow on issues such as sportsmanship and philanthropy.

Mourning said it is important to begin with an understanding of what the Games are all about. Each year, McDonald's All American® players visit children and families staying at a local Ronald McDonald House.

"It's hard to believe that I was in these players' shoes nearly 20 years ago, thinking about going pro and living the life," Mourning said. "But the McDonald's All American Game® has always reminded me that life is about more than just basketball. It's about giving back to those less fortunate. And I know for a lot of guys and girls, it's something that will stick with them throughout their careers."

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## **2007 McDonald's All American Games/PAGE 2**

The 30th Anniversary of the McDonald's All American Games will tip-off in Louisville, K.y. at Freedom Hall on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. The Girls Game begins at 5:30 p.m. EST and will broadcast live on ESPNU. The Boys Game begins at 8:00 p.m. EST and will air live on ESPN. A portion of the proceeds from the 2007 Games will benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Kentuckiana. To date, more than \$5 million has been donated to RMHC and its network of local chapters from proceeds generated at the McDonald's All American Games.

McDonald's selected Mourning as Alumni Ambassador going into the 30th Anniversary to represent the All American Games not only for his success on the court, but also for his off-the-court dedication to making positive changes in the lives of children. Mourning focuses on helping others with his own charities, including: Overtown Youth Center, Zo's Fund For Life, Celebrity 8-Ball Challenge, Zo's Summer Groove, Zo's Million Dollar Shootout and Honey Shine with wife Tracy Wilson Mourning.

Mourning has also earned many charitable awards over the years, including the 2006 NBA Community Assist Award, which honors players who reflect the National Basketball Association's passion for giving back.

"The most important aspect of the McDonald's All American Games is the impact it has on children and families who benefit from Ronald McDonald House Charities," said legendary coach John Wooden, chairman of the Games and 10-time NCAA Champion at UCLA (1948-1975). "Our partnership with Alonzo will enrich the charitable element of the Games and bring support and hope to those who need it most."

Mourning is an alumnus of the 1988 Games East team. He scored 16 points during his team's win at The Pit on the University of New Mexico campus. Mourning shared the John Wooden MVP Award with now retired NBA small forward/shooting guard Billy Owens who ended his career with the Detroit Pistons.

## **2007 McDonald's All American Games/PAGE 3**

Since 1977, more than 800 players have competed in the McDonald's All American Games, forming an elite list that reads like a "Who's Who" in basketball history. McDonald's All American athletes include basketball greats Michael Jordan (retired), Magic Johnson (retired), Kevin Garnett (Minnesota Timberwolves), LeBron James (Cleveland Cavaliers) and Carmelo Anthony (Denver Nuggets).

Tickets to the Games and POWERade® Jam Fest are available through Ticketmaster and by phone, (866) 909-GAME. POWERade Jam Fest will be held at Knight's Hall at Bellarmine University March 26, 2007 beginning at 7:00 p.m. EST.

Visit the McDonald's All American Games Web site for more information and stay tuned for exciting new updates: [www.mcdonaldsallamerican.com](http://www.mcdonaldsallamerican.com).

### **About RMHC**

Ronald McDonald House Charities, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Its programs are grassroots-driven to enable the Charity to offer help where children need it most — right in their own communities. RMHC makes an immediate, positive impact on children's lives through its global network of local Chapters in nearly 50 countries and its three core programs: the Ronald McDonald House®, Ronald McDonald Family Room™ and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®. RMHC and its global network of local Chapters have awarded more than \$430 million in grants and program services to children's programs around the world. For more information, visit [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org).

### **About McDonald's**

McDonald's USA, LLC is the leading foodservice provider in the United States serving a variety of wholesome foods made from quality ingredients to millions of customers every day. More than 80 percent of McDonald's 13,700 U.S. restaurants are independently owned and operated by local franchisees. For more information about McDonald's visit [www.mcdonalds.com](http://www.mcdonalds.com).

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