

McDonald's All American High School Basketball The Selection Process

The Search Begins

The initial list of potential names is gathered by Sports America, Inc., which has worked with McDonald's in connection with the McDonald's All American Game since it was founded in 1978. Names are submitted by members of the Selection Committee as well as state representatives who religiously follow the prep scene in their areas. In addition, Sports America subscribes to every major basketball publication and is read very carefully by its staff to ensure that some deserving players are not overlooked. Many rising seniors make this list based on an excellent junior year or for having an outstanding summer participating in summer camps and AAU tournaments. There is no set number of how many players can be nominated throughout the country. Traditionally, the final total is between 1,500 to 1,800 for boys and 900 to 1,200 for girls.

What Happens Next?

To eliminate duplication, since the initial list is obtained from many sources, the names are then entered into Sports America's computer database and listed alphabetically and by state. This also allows for an orderly fashion in which to begin the verification process.

The Verification Process

At this stage, the staff of Sports America contacts the player's high school via telephone in order to confirm with the basketball coach or athletic director that the nominee is indeed an eligible senior in good academic standing. Sports America also asks the coach if there are other seniors on his team that he or she feels deserve a nomination.

The Team Selection Process

The voting process for the McDonald's All American Team next involves the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee is comprised of the nation's most knowledgeable high school analysts, prep scouts, high school newspaper reporters and prestigious basketball coaches. The Selection Committee is chaired by Coach Morgan Wootten of DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, Maryland. Coach Wootten has over 1,200 career victories and has won five national high school championships.

Round One - The first ballot is a consensus list of the top 125 players in the nation, compiled by the staff of Sports America, Inc., from the nation's top recruiting and high school basketball publications. The list is sent to the Selection Committee at the end of December for them to add any additional names that they feel are deserving candidates for the designated Top 100 finalists to be announced in early February. After being reviewed by the Selection Committee members, the ballot usually grows to nearly 150 names of the top players in the country.

Round Two - The second ballot, with those 150 or so names, is sent to the Selection Committee in January, asking members to vote for the 40 most deserving players, in their opinion, from the alphabetized list. (Note: Players are intentionally not ranked on the ballot). Once the ballots are returned to Sports America in mid-January, the votes are tallied and the Top 100 vote getters are considered McDonald's All American Finalists for that year. The list of Top 100 Finalists will be revealed to the public in early February on McDonaldsAllAmerican.com.

Round Three - The third ballot consists of the top 100 finalists from the previous vote and is sent to the Selection Committee near the end of January. Once again, the committee reviews the ballot and this time they rank the top 20 players. All of the players who do not receive any votes (do not appear on any ballots) are eliminated from future rounds.

Round Four - The fourth ballot includes all of the players who received at least one vote from a committee member in the previous round of voting. This time, committee members are given a ballot that requires them to make their own McDonald's team. The ballots require the committee members to select two point guards, two shooting guards, two small forwards, two power forwards and two centers for each the East and West teams. Each committee member votes for 20 total players. The players are ranked in order based on who appears on the most ballots. Those players are also divided onto East and West teams and by position to create the final teams. The top 20 vote getters are placed on the roster. By designing the final ballot this

way, we make sure that equal representation is coming from around the country and for each position. With 27 committee members voting, the team is always very solid in its support.

On or about February 15, Selection Committee Chairman Morgan Wootten, reviews and approves the twenty names chosen by the Selection Committee and notifies each player that he or she has been named to the McDonald's All American High School Basketball Team and selected to play in the McDonald's All American Game. Coach Wootten has the option to add additional players from the following four vote getters should he feel that it is necessary and warranted for the overall good of the Game.

The official announcement of the McDonald's All American High School Basketball Team is made a few days later at the end of February.

Voting Criteria

Each committee member is instructed to vote for players who they feel should be represented of McDonald's All Americans. Players must have played at least half of their senior season and should be considered academically eligible throughout the voting process.

Where is the line between East and West?

There is no specific line that determines the East and West breakdown. We take the players for each position and divide them based on relative geographical location. Because there are sometimes more players at one position on one team than others, they are usually exceptions to the rule. Most likely, at least 90 percent of the players will fall in their appropriate region, but McDonald's also wants to have the best players in the nation represented in the game.

Fifth Year Players

Only true seniors are allowed to play in the McDonald's All American Game. Players are only eligible once during their high school career to play in the game. Once a player begins the ninth grade he has only four years to complete his high school eligibility. Any player repeating his senior year will not be able to participate and any fifth-year player that had repeated an earlier year (freshman, sophomore or junior) will also be ineligible to play.

McDonald's All American High School		
Basketball Games		
STATE CONTACT COMMITTEE		
STATE	BOYS REPRESENTATIVE	GIRLS REPRESENTATIVE
ALABAMA	MIKE HERNDON Mobile Register	MIKE HERNDON Mobile Register
	KEVIN KLOTT Anchorage Daily News	TIMOTHY NICHOLS Juneau Empire
ARKANSAS	CHARLES RIPLEY Court of Dreams	DORIS GAISER Kamikaze Basketball Club
	ANTHONY RAY Arizona Preps	ANTHONY RAY Arizona Preps
CALIFORNIA	JERRY GALE SoCalHoops	CLAY KALLUM FullCourt.com
	NEIL DEVLIN The Denver Post	BRADY DELANDER The Denver Post
CONNECTICUT	JOE GAETANO Hoop Mountain	JOE GAETANO Hoop Mountain
	VAN JOHNSON JR. Game Plan Sports	KELVIN POWELL Roundball Journal
DELAWARE	BUDDY HURLOCK The News Journal	BUDDY HURLOCK The News Journal
	ED AURICCHIO Galaxy of Stars Basketball	KELVIN POWELL Roundball Journal
GEORGIA	KELVIN POWELL Roundball Journal	KELVIN POWELL Roundball Journal
	PAUL HONDA HondaReport.com	PAUL HONDA HondaReport.com
IDAHO	BRIAN MURPHY Idaho Statesman	BRIAN MURPHY Idaho Statesman
	ROY SCHMIDT Illinois Prep Bulls-Eye	STEVE TUCKER Chicago Sun Times
INDIANA	MICHAEL PEGRAM Peegs.com	PAT McKEE Indianapolis Star
	VAN COLEMAN FutureStars Magazine	VAN COLEMAN FutureStars Magazine
KANSAS	BOB HOVEY HovpenSports.com	BOB HOVEY HovpenSports.com
	MATT DENISON Kentucky Hoop Fest	JODY DEMLING Louisville-Courier Journal
LOUISIANA	RON BRISCOE Southeastern Basketball Journal	KELVIN POWELL Roundball Journal

MAINE	JIM SEAVEY	JIM SEAVEY
	Main Coaches Assoc.	Maine Coaches Assoc.
MARYLAND	VAN JOHNSON	JAMES NICHOLS
	Game Plan Sports	Team Unique
MASSACHUSETTS	STEVE GIBBS	STEVE GIBBS
	Hoop Mountain	Hoop Mountain
MICHIGAN	STEVE BELL	JIM HALVERSON
	MichiganPreps.com	Michigan Belles
MINNESOTA	MICHAEL MUCH	MICHAEL MUCH
	MinnesotaPreps.com	MinnesotaPreps.com
MISSISSIPPI	KELVIN POWELL	ROD WALKER
	Roundball Journal	The Clarion Ledger
MISSOURI	BILL GUNN	BILL GUNN
	MOsports.com	MOsports.com
MONTANA	MIKE TOWNE	MIKE TOWNE
	Great Falls Tribune	Great Falls Tribune
NEBRASKA	HERB WELLING	MIKE PATTERSON
	Five Star Basketball	Omaha World Herald
NEVADA	BRENT HINCKLEY	BRENT HINCKLEY
	Summerlin News/West Valley News	Summerlin News/West Valley News
NEW HAMPSHIRE	KEVIN GRAY	KARA LEARY
	Union Leader	New England Crusaders
NEW JERSEY	JAY GOMES	TERRY FREDERICK
	NJ Hoops	Hoop Mountain Mid-Atlantic
NEW MEXICO	KEVIN MORRISON	KEVIN MORRISON
	Grass Roots Sports	Grass Roots Sports
NEW YORK	MIKE SULLIVAN	VINNY CANNIZZARO
	HSnewyork.scout.com	N/A
NORTH CAROLINA	DAVE TELEP	TERRY HAIRE
	Scouthoops.com	Hoops & Dreams Recruiting
NORTH DAKOTA	DON HANSON	DON HANSON
	The Hoopster	The Hoopster
OHIO	MIKE DUNCAN	JOHNNY BETHEA
	Scout	The Playground Report
OKLAHOMA	GREG SWAIM	GREG SWAIM
	Greg Swaim Basketball	Greg Swaim Basketball
OREGON	JED TAI	CARL TINSLEY
	OregonPreps.com	End of the Trail Tournament
PENNSYLVANIA	JEFF McLANE	ANDREW SHAY
	Phillynews.com	Patriot News
RHODE ISLAND	TOM CANNON	TOM CANNON
	Scout	Scout
SOUTH CAROLINA	JOHN RHODES	JOHN RHODES
	Beach Ball Classic	Beach Ball Classic

SOUTH DAKOTA	ROGER TOLAND	ROGER TOLAND
	Rapid City Journal	Rapid City Journal
UTAH	DAVE HAMMER	DAVE HAMMER
	Intermountain Hoops	Intermountain Hoops
TENNESSEE	LEON SPENCER	KELVIN POWELL
	TNPrepsports.com	Roundball Journal
TEXAS	MIKE KUNSTADT	JOEY SIMMONS
	Texas Hoops	Texas Express
VERMONT	MIKE DONOGHUE	MIKE DONOGHUE
	Burlington Free Press	Burlington Free Press
VIRGINIA	ZIRKLE BLAKEY	ZIRKLE BLAKEY
	Virginia Preps	Virginia Preps
WASHINGTON	MICHAEL WARCHOL	MICHAEL WARCHOL
	WashingtonPreps.com	WashingtonPreps.com
WEST VIRGINIA	DOUG HUFF	DOUG HUFF
	Student Sports & Street & Smith's	Student Sports & Street & Smith's
WISCONSIN	NICHOLAS KARTOS	NICHOLAS KARTOS
	Wisconsin Sports Network	Wisconsin Sports Network
WYOMING	JEREMIAH JOHNKE	ROBERT GAGLIARDI
	Wyoming Tribune-Eagle	Wyoming Tribune-Eagle

**2007 McDonald's All American
Girls Selection Committee**

Linda Bamrick	Cathedral High School – Indianapolis, IN
Beth Bass	WBCA
Mike Flynn	Blue Star Basketball
Jerry Gatewood	All Game Sports Recruiting Service
Carroll Graham	AAU Girls Basketball Chair
Tanya Johnson	Loyola Academy – Wilmete, IL
Clay Kallam	FullCourt.com
Winston Kelly	Game Ball Magazine
Mary Coyle Klinger	Rutgers Preparatory School
Steve Kozaki	National Basketball Events, Inc.
Kara Leary	New England Crusaders
Matt Masiero	Five-Star Basketball
Bill McDonough	Blue Chip Basketball
Samantha Morrow	Mansfield High School – Mansfield, TX
Tony Pappas	Waterloo West High School – Waterloo, IA
Kelvin Powell	Roundball Journal
Jill Prudden	Oak Ridge High School – Oak Ridge, TN
John Rhodes	Beach Ball Classic
Joe Smith	Women's Basketball News Service
Greg Swaim	Greg Swaim Basketball
Carl Tinsley	End of the Trail Tournament
Steve Tucker	Chicago Sun Times
Mike White	All-Star Girls Report
Boo Williams	Boo Williams Summer League

2007 McDonald's All American Boys Selection Committee

Vince Baldwin	Prep Spotlight Magazine
Dave Bones	Cage Scope
Ron Briscoe	Southeast Regional Basketball Report
Frank Burlison	Long Beach Press Telegram
Van Coleman	FutureStars Magazine
Bill Cronauer	B/C Scouting Service
Jack Curran	Archbishop Molloy High School – Jamaica, NY
Clark Francis	The Hoop Scoop
Howard Garfinkel	Five-Star Basketball
Bob Gibbons	All-Star Sports Report
Nate Harris	Booker T. Washington High School – Tulsa, OK
Sonny Hill	Sonny Hill Basketball League – Philadelphia, PA
Doug Huff	Student Sports, Inc.
Van Johnson	Game Plan Sports Scouting Services
Kurt Keener	Detroit Country Day – Beverly Hills, MI
Tom Konchalski	H.S. Basketball Illustrated Report
Tim McCormick	ESPN Television
Vito Montelli	St. Joseph High School – Trumbull, CT
Brick Oettinger	Prep Stars Recruiter's Handbook
Eddie Oliver	Hoops USA
Kurt O'Neill	Elite Hoops
Joe Petrocelli	Archbishop Alter High School – Kettering, OH
Keith Pickett	St. Louis Shootout
Tracy Pierson	PrepWestHoops.com
John Rhodes	Beach Ball Classic
Don Showalter	Mid-Prairie High School – Wellman, IA
Tim Stevens	Raleigh News and Observer
Mike Sullivan	HSnewyork.scout.com
Greg Swaim	Greg Swaim Recruiting Service
Dave Telep	ScoutHoops.com
Barry Temkin	Chicago Tribune
Boo Williams	Boo Williams Summer League