

McDonald's All American® High School Basketball Games

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 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 of 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 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 50 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.

Round Three - The third ballot consists of the top 50 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 vote on the top 30 players.

Round Four - The fourth ballot includes the top 30 players and ties from 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. These players 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 34 Boys committee members and 24 Girls committee members voting, the team is always very solid in its support.

On or around 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 Games.

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 geographic 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 Games.

Fifth-Year Players

The selection criteria to be named to the McDonald's All American High School Basketball Team adheres to the rules and regulations of the National High School Federation which states that once a student/athlete enters his/her ninth grade year, he/she has four consecutive years to complete his/her high school eligibility. Therefore, Fifth-year players will not be eligible to participate in the McDonald's All American High School Basketball Games.

2009 McDONALD'S ALL AMERICAN® BOYS GAME

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Morgan Wootten, Chairman

DeMatha High School, Hyattsville, Maryland (retired)

Vince	Baldwin	Prep Spotlight Magazine
Paul	Biancardi	ESPN Scouts, Inc.
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 Services
Jack	Curran	Archbishop Molloy High School
Clark	Francis	The Hoop Scoop
Howard	Garfinkel	Five-Star Camp
Bob	Gibbons	All-Star Sports Report
Sonny	Hill	Sonny Hill Basketball League
Doug	Huff	Student Sports, Inc.
Van	Johnson	Game Plan Sports Scouting
Kurt	Keener	Detroit County Day School
Tom	Konchalski	H. S. Basketball Illustrated Report
Dave	Krider	Maxpreps.com
Tim	McCormick	ESPN Television
Vito	Montelli	St. Joseph High School
Brick	Oettinger	Prep Stars Recruiter's Handbook
Eddie	Oliver	Hoops USA
Joe	Petrocelli	Archbishop Alter High School
Keith	Pickett	St. Louis Shootout
Tracy	Pierson	PacWestHoops.com
John	Rhodes	Beach Ball Classic
Don	Showalter	Mid-Prairie High School
Tim	Stevens	News & Observer
Mike	Sullivan	hsnewyork.scout.com
Greg	Swaim	Greg Swaim Basketball
Dave	Telep	Scout.com
Donnie	Wilkie	Bank of America City of Palms Classic
Boo	Williams	Boo Williams Summer League
Joe	Wootten	Bishop O'Connell High School

2009 McDONALD'S ALL AMERICAN® GIRLS GAME

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Morgan Wootten, Chairman

DeMatha High School, Hyattsville, Maryland (retired)

Linda	Bamrick	Cathedral High School
Beth	Bass	WBCA
Mary	Coyle Klinger	Rutgers Preparatory School
Mike	Flynn	Blue Star Basketball
Carroll	Graham	AAU Girls Basketball Chair
Tanya	Johnson	Loyola Academy
Clay	Kallam	Full Court.com
Winston	Kelly	Game Ball Magazine
Steve	Kozaki	National Basketball Events, Inc.
Kara	Leary	New England Crusaders
Kevin	Lynch	Blue Star Report
Chris	Mennig	Blue Star Basketball
Glenn	Nelson	HoopGurlz.com
Tony	Pappas	Waterloo West High School
Kelvin	Powell	Roundball Journal
Jill	Prudden	Oak Ridge High School
John	Rhodes	Beachball Classic
Joey	Simmons	Premier Basketball Report
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

2009 McDONALD'S ALL AMERICAN® BOYS GAME

STATE NOMINATION CONTACTS

Alabama	Josh	Bean	Mobile Register
Alaska	Kevin	Klott	Anchorage Dailey News
Arizona	Anthony	Ray	Arizona Preps
Arkansas	Charles	Ripley	Court of Dreams
California	Jerry	Gale	SoCalHoops
Colorado	Neil	Devlin	The Denver Post
Connecticut	Joe	Gaetano	Hoop Mountain
Delaware	Buddy	Hurlock	The News Journal
District of Columbia	Van	Johnson Jr.	Game Plan Sports
Florida	Ed	Auricchio	Galaxy of Stars Basketball
Georgia	Kelvin	Powell	Roundball Journal
Hawaii	Paul	Honda	HondaReport.com
Idaho	Jesse	Zentz	Idaho Statesman
Illinois	Roy	Schmidt	Illinois Prep Bulls-Eye
Indiana	Garry	Donna	Hoosier Basketball Magazine
Iowa	Van	Coleman	FutureStars Magazine
Kansas	Bob	Hovey	HovpenSports.com
Kentucky	Matt	Denison	Kentucky Hoop Fest
Louisiana	Ron	Briscoe	Regional Basketball Report
Maine	Peter	Murray	Maine Coaches Assoc.
Maryland	Van	Johnson, Jr.	Game Plan Sports
Massachusetts	Steve	Gibbs	Hoop Mountain
Michigan	Steve	Bell	Michigan Preps
Minnesota	Michael	Much	Minnesota Preps

Mississippi	Kelvin	Powell	Roundball Journal
Missouri	Bill	Gunn	MOsports.com
Montana	Mike	Towne	Great Falls Tribune
Nebraska	Herb	Welling	Five Star Basketball
Nevada	Brent	Hinckley	Summerlin News/West Valley News
New Hampshire	Kevin	Gray	Union Leader
New Jersey	Jay	Gomes	NJ Hoops
New Mexico	Bill	Krum	New Mexico Select
New York	Mike	Sullivan	HSnewyork.scout.com
North Carolina	Dave	Telep	Scouthoops.com
North Dakota	Don	Hanson	The Hoopster
Ohio	Mike	Duncan	Scout
Oklahoma	Greg	Swaim	Greg Swaim Basketball
Oregon	Jed	Tai	Oregon Hoops.com
Pennsylvania	Keith	Pompey	Phillynews.com
Rhode Island	Tom	Cannon	Scout
South Carolina	John	Rhodes	Beach Ball Classic
South Dakota	Jeff	Easton	Rapid City Journal
Tennessee	Andre	Whitehead	TNPrepsports.com
Texas	Mike	Kunstadt	Texas Hoops
Utah	Dave	Hammer	Intermountain Hoops
Vermont	Mike	Donoghue	Burlington Free Press
Virginia	Zirkle	Blakey III	Virginia Preps
Washington	Phil	Barnhart	Northwesthoops.net
West Virginia	Doug	Huff	Student Sports & Street & Smith's
Wisconsin	Nicholas	Kartos	Wisconsin Sports Network
Wyoming	Jeremiah	Johnke	Wyoming Tribune-Eagle

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STATE NOMINATION CONTACTS

Alabama	Josh	Bean	Mobile Register
Alaska	Kevin	Klott	Anchorage Daily News
Arizona	Anthony	Ray	Arizona Preps
Arkansas	Doris	Gaiser	Kamikaze Basketball Club
California	Clay	Kallam	FullCourt.com
Colorado	Brady	Delander	The Denver Post
Connecticut	Joe	Gaetano	Hoop Mountain
Delaware	Buddy	Hurlock	News Journal
District of Columbia	Kelvin	Powell	Roundball Journal
Florida	Kelvin	Powell	Roundball Journal
Georgia	Kelvin	Powell	Roundball Journal
Hawaii	Paul	Honda	Hawaii Sports Network
Idaho	Jesse	Zentz	Idaho Statesman
Illinois	Steve	Tucker	Chicago Sun Times
Indiana	Garry	Donna	Hoosier Basketball Magazine
Iowa	Van	Coleman	Future Stars
Kansas	Bob	Hovey	HovpenSports.com
Kentucky	Jody	Demling	Louisville Courier-Journal
Louisiana	Kelvin	Powell	Roundball Journal
Maine	Jody	Grant	
Maryland	James	Nichols	Team Unique
Massachusetts	Joe	Gaetano	Hoop Mountain
Michigan	Emez	Oliver	Michigan Crossover Scouting Service
Minnesota	Michael	Much	Minnesota Preps.com
Mississippi	Rod	Walker	The Clarion Ledger
Missouri	Bill	Gunn	MOsports.com

Montana	Mike	Towne	Great Falls Tribune
Nebraska	Mike	Patterson	Omaha World Herald
Nevada	Brent	Hinckley	Summerlin News/West Valley News
New Hampshire	Kara	Leary	New England Crusaders
New Jersey	Corey	Cohen	Showcase Tournaments
New Mexico	Bill	Crum	New Mexico Select
New York	Vinny	Cannizzaro	
North Carolina	Terry	Haire	Hoops & Dreams Recruiting
North Dakota	Don	Hanson	The Hoopster
Ohio	Johnny	Bethea	The Playground Report
Oklahoma	Greg	Swaim	Greg Swaim Basketball
Oregon	Carl	Tinsley	End of the Trail Tournament
Pennsylvania	Andrew	Shay	Patriot News
Rhode Island	Tom	Cannon	Scout.com
South Carolina	John	Rhodes	Beach Ball Classic
South Dakota	Jeff	Easton	Rapid City Journal
Tennessee	Kelvin	Powell	Roundball Journal
Texas	Joey	Simmons	Texas Express
Utah	Dave	Hammer	Intermountain Hoops
Vermont	Mike	Donoghue	Burlington Free Press
Virginia	Zirkle	Blakey	Virginia Preps
Washington	Glenn	Nelson	hoopgurlz.com
West Virginia	Doug	Huff	Student Sports.com
Wisconsin	Nicholas	Kartos	Wisconsin Sports Network
Wyoming	Jeremiah	Johnke	Wyoming Tribune-Eagle