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McDONALD'S ANNOUNCES MORGAN WOOTTEN PLAYERS OF THE YEAR FOR THE 2019 ALL AMERICAN GAMES

Archbishop Mitty's Haley Jones and East High School's James Wiseman honored for their outstanding work on and off the court

ATLANTA (Mar. 26, 2019) – Today, McDonald's recognized the achievements of Haley Jones and James Wiseman as this year's Morgan Wootten Players of the Year. The players were surprised by the announcement in front of family and teammates ahead of their performances in the McDonald's All American Games. This prestigious honor is awarded to a McDonald's All American boy and girl who demonstrate outstanding character, exhibit leadership and embody the values of being a student-athlete through school work and community affairs. Created by McDonald's in 1997, the award honors the impactful coaching and teaching career of Morgan Wootten, who was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000. Jones and Wiseman will join the ranks of former Player of the Year recipients including LeBron James, Jabari Parker, Breanna Stewart and Maya Moore.

Haley Jones, the 6'1" Archbishop Mitty student from San Jose, California, will be tipping-off with the West Team this year. Averaging 26 points and 4.4 assists per game, the Stanford-bound hoops star has been perfecting her basketball skills since she was six years old. When she's not lacing up for a game, Haley spends her time volunteering at Holy Cross Church and tutors younger students.

James Wiseman will be leading the West Team on March 27 before taking his talents to Memphis in the fall. The 7'0" basketball player averages 25 points and brings down 15.2 rebounds per game at East High School in Memphis, Tennessee. Off the court, Wiseman enjoys English class and volunteering for organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Second Harvest Food Bank.

"James and Haley are not only outstanding basketball players, but also great role models for younger athletes to look up to," said Morgan Wootten, Co-Chairman of the McDonalds All American Games Selection Committee. "This award celebrates the contribution these two have made to their teams, schools and communities, and we're proud to recognize the work they are putting in."

"These two basketball stars represent what well-rounded athletes should aspire to be," said Joe Wootten, Co-Chairman of the McDonald's All American Games Selection Committee. "Haley and James have bright futures ahead of them, and we look forward to watching closely as they take the next steps in their promising careers."

Player of the Year Nominees from the Boys Teams include **Cole Anthony** (Oak Hill Academy), **Vernon Carey, Jr.** (NSU University School), **Kahlil Whitney** (Roselle Catholic High School), **Anthony Edwards** (Holy Spirit Preparatory School), **Isaiah Stewart** (La Lumiere School), **Nico Mannion** (Pinnacle High School) and **Jaden McDaniels** (Federal Way High School).

Player of the Year Nominees from the Girls Teams include **Aliyah Boston** (Worcester Academy), **Jordan Horston** (Columbus Africentric High School), **Samantha Brunelle** (William Monroe High School), **Rickea Jackson** (Detroit Edison Public Academy), **Francesca Belibi** (Regis Jesuit High School), **Ashley Owusu** (Paul VI High School) and **Zia Cooke** (Rogers High School).

Ticket Sales and Viewing Options

These top-ranked seniors will hit the court with the nation's best high school basketball players on March 27, 2019 to compete in the 42nd Annual McDonald's All American Games at State Farm Arena in Atlanta. To witness these rising hoops stars, along with an exclusive halftime performance by ATL's own Migos, fans can purchase tickets via <u>Ticketmaster</u> or the State Farm Arena box office.

ESPN2 will televise both McDonald's All American Games live on Wednesday, March 27. The Girls Game will air at 5 p.m. ET with the Boys Game immediately following at 7 p.m. ET.

Proud sponsors of the 2019 McDonald's All American Games include adidas, Coca-Cola®, POWERADE® and Sprite®.

Games For Good

Just as Players of the Year support their communities, the McDonald's All American Games continue to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) through its network of local Chapters. At RMHC, programs like the Ronald McDonald House®, Ronald McDonald Family Room® and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® provide comfort and compassion to families with sick children so they are

fully supported and able to be a part of their children's care. In addition to investing in the future of basketball and RMHC, McDonald's is committed to investing in the future of its employees through Archways to Opportunity®, an educational access program for eligible U.S. McDonald's employees*. This year, four outstanding local Atlanta Archways to Opportunity participants will be recognized at the McDonald's All American Games during an on-court ceremony, where their educational achievements will be celebrated in front of thousands of basketball fans.

@McDAAG

Get in the Game by following the McDonald's All American Games on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Facebook</u> for exclusive access to players. Follow @McDAAG to receive up-to-date information and a behind-the-scenes look at the 2019 Games, including key announcements, local player/coach recognitions, fan giveaways and historical Games facts and figures.

About McDonald's USA

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