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For further information contact: Ian Whittell (+44 7768 822938, iwhittell@aol.com); Rich Sheubrooks (704-896-0513 or 980-230-3070); or Craig Miller (camiller@usabasketball.com) or Jenny Maag (jmaag@usabasketball.com) at USA Basketball (719-590-4800).

*This release is also available on USA Basketball's World Wide Web homepage - <http://www.usabasketball.com>.

World Select Team Announced For 2008 Nike Hoop Summit

- Internationally Experienced World Team Set To Challenge USA At April 12 Nike Hoop Summit -

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (March 25, 2008) -- The 2008 World Select Team was announced today for the 2008 Nike Hoop Summit, the premier annual basketball game featuring many of the world's leading basketball players aged 19 years or younger. The 11th Annual Nike Hoop Summit will be played at the Rose Garden, in Portland, Ore., on Saturday, April 12, 2008, in a 1 p.m. (PDT) nationally televised game on Fox Sports Net.

The game, which sees America's top senior high school players taking on a World Select Team comprised of the world's top players, has been staged on ten previous occasions and has given an extraordinary number of talented young players the chance to showcase their abilities.

This year's version promises to be no different, with the World Select naming a roster full of players with a great deal of experience in international basketball and featuring 11 players from 11 countries across four continents.

The '08 World roster features four guards in 6'0" **Diego Gerbaudo** (Real Madrid / Argentina), 6'3" **Devoe Joseph** (Pickering H.S., Ontario / Canada), 6'4" **Zygmantas Janavicius** (Zalgiris Kaunas / Lithuania) and 6'6" **Aleksandr Kolchenko** (BC Khimik / Ukraine).

The World Team also features five forwards, including 6'6" **Emmanuel Ngedu** (Brewster Academy, N.H. / Nigeria), 6'8" **Samardo Samuels** (St Benedict's Prep, N.J. / Jamaica), 6'10" **Serge Ibaka** (CB Hospitalet (Spain) / Congo), 6'10" **Angel Garcia** (East Chicago Central H.S. / Puerto Rico) and 6'11" **Tim Ohlbrecht** (Bamberg / Germany).

The World roster is rounded off with a pair of centers, 7'1" **Alexis Ajinca** (Heyers-Toulon / France), who returns from the 2007 roster, and 7'4" **Boban Marjanovic** (Hemofarm / Serbia).

Tickets are now on sale for the 2008 Nike Hoop Summit, with reserved courtside seats priced \$25-\$50 and all other lower bowl tickets \$10. Tickets can be purchased through the Rose Quarter Ticket Office, by calling 877-789-ROSE (7673) or by visiting www.rosequarter.com.

All four of the World Team members who play at the high school level are ranked among the top 82 prep prospects by Rivals.com and have signed with top NCAA Division I programs. **Samuels** is ranked #7 by Rivals.com and has signed a letter of intent to play at the University of Louisville, **Garcia** is ranked #27 by Rivals.com and has signed to attend the University of Memphis, **Negedu** is ranked #31 by Rivals.com and has signed with the University of Arizona, and **Joseph** is ranked #82 and has signed to play at the University of Minnesota.

Seven World Team members were members of national teams that competed last summer in the 2007 FIBA U19 World Championship. **Ajinca** (7.4 ppg., 5.6 rpg., and a tournament high 24 blocked shots for France), **Garcia** (13.8 ppg. and 7.8 rpg. for Puerto Rico), **Gerbaudo** (9.1 ppg., 2.6 rpg., and 4.4 apg. for Argentina), **Janavicius** (10.1 ppg., 3.5 rpg., and a tournament high 6.6 apg. for Lithuania), **Joseph** (22.6 ppg., 5.8 rpg., and 3.4 apg. for Canada), **Marjanovic** (8.4 ppg., 6.6 rpg. and 62.2 percent from the field for Serbia) and **Negedu** (17.2 ppg. and 8.6 rpg. for Nigeria) all represented their country in the U19 Worlds. **Marjanovic** helped lead Serbia to the gold medal at the U19 World Championship, while **Ajinca** aided France to the bronze medal.

Additionally, **Gerbaudo** was the MVP of Basketball Without Borders in both Puerto Rico and Buenos Aires and currently plays with the second team of Spanish powerhouse Real Madrid. **Joseph** has been invited to try-out for the Canadian senior national team that will play in the 2008 FIBA World Olympic Qualifying Tournament this summer. **Kolchenko** was called up to the full senior Ukrainian national team last year and helped the under-20 team win silver at the B Division European Championships, averaging 19.4 points and 4.4 rebounds a game. **Ibaka**, a member of Congo's under-18 national team, plays in Spain's LEB with CB Hospitalet and was MVP, leading scorer and leading rebounder at the African Junior Championships in South Africa in 2007. **Ohlbrecht** played 12 games for Brose Baskets Bamberg in 2006-07 when they won the German Bundesliga and was named the All German Bundesliga Newcomer of the Year that season. **Ajinca** has played Euroleague basketball, the top club competition in Europe, for Pau-Orthez and helped the French under-19 national team to bronze medal in the 2007 World Championships.

The World Team at the 2008 Nike Hoop Summit will be coached for the fourth consecutive year by respected Australian national teams coach **Rob Beveridge**, currently with Australian National Basketball League team the West Sydney Razorbacks.

Serving as the World Team assistant coach is Serbia's **Marin Sedlacek**, who is making his eighth Hoop Summit appearance.

The USA claimed a 100-80 victory in the 2007 Nike Hoop Summit that was held at the FedExForum in Memphis, Tenn., giving the USA an 8-2 lead in the series.

The World Team victories came in 1996 in Charlotte, N.C., by a 104-96 margin, and in 1998 in San Antonio, Texas, when seven-time NBA All-Star Dirk Nowitzki had 33 points and 14 rebounds in a 104-99 victory.

The World Select Team has been assembled by Nike's Consultant of Global Basketball **Rich Sheubrooks** after consulting with general managers, clubs, federations, scouts and coaches from around the world.

"I think the team we have this year is very athletic, possibly it is the most athletic team we have ever assembled for Nike Hoop Summit. Also, a lot of our guys have experience of playing against American players so, hopefully, that will help us as well," said Sheubrooks.

"We believe this team compares very favorably with our teams from previous years and we are very excited about seeing them come together in Portland."

To date, 74 former USA and World Select players have been drafted by NBA teams and, currently, 40 former USA and 12 former World Team members play in the NBA.

World Team Hoop Summit alums now playing for NBA teams include: Andrea Bargnani (Toronto Raptors), Dan Gadzuric (Milwaukee Bucks), Yi Jianlian (Milwaukee Bucks), Bostjan Nachbar (New Jersey Nets), Dirk Nowitzki (Dallas Mavericks), Tony Parker (San Antonio Spurs), Vladimir Radmanovic (Los Angeles Lakers), Sergio Rodriguez (Portland Trail Blazers), Mouhamed Saer Sene (Seattle SuperSonics), Louis Scola (Houston Rockets), Darius Songaila (Washington Wizards) and Marcus Vinicius Viera (New Orleans Hornets).

2008 World Select Team Nike Hoop Summit Roster

NAME	POS	HGT	WGT	DOB	HOME COUNTRY / CURRENT TEAM / *COLLEGE
Alexis Ajinca	C	7-1	220	5/06/88	France / Hyeres-Toulon Var
Angel Garcia	F	6-10	230	11/07/88	Puerto Rico / East Chicago Central H.S., IL / *Memphis
Diego Gerbaudo	G	6-0	174	8/13/89	Argentina / Real Madrid
Serge Ibaka	F	6-10	210	9/18/89	Congo / C.B. L'Hospitalet
Zygmantas Janavicius	G	6-4	176	2/20/89	Lithuania / B.C. Zalgiris Kaunas
Devoe Joseph	G	6-3	180	5/07/90	Canada / Pickering H.S., Ontario / *Minnesota
Alexander Kolchenko	G	6-6	200	9/20/88	Ukraine / Khimik-OPZ Yuzny
Boban Marjanovic	C	7-4	245	8/15/88	Serbia / K.K. Hemofarm Stada Vrsac
Emmanuel Ngedu	F	6-6	220	10/23/88	Nigeria / Brewster Academy, NH / *Arizona
Tim Ohlbrecht	F	6-11	225	8/30/88	Germany / Brose Baskets Bamberg
Samardo Samuels	F	6-8	250	0/00/89	Jamaica / St Benedict's Prep, NJ / *Louisville

Head Coach: Rob Beveridge (Australia)

Assistant Coach: Marin Sedlacek (Serbia)

**Indicates college where the player has signed a national letter-of-intent to play in 2008-09.*