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

Annual Nike Hoop Summit To Be Held April 12 In Portland

- Premiere High School International Game To Be Held At Rose Garden -

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (Feb. 21, 2008) -- USA Basketball, Nike and the NBA Portland Trail Blazers announced today that the 2008 Nike Hoop Summit, the country's premiere annual basketball game featuring America's top senior boy high school players going against a World Select Team comprised of the world's top players 19-years-old or younger, will be played in Portland, Ore., at the Rose Garden, home of the NBA Portland Trail Blazers.

The 11th Annual Nike Hoop Summit will be held on Saturday, April 12, 1:00 p.m. (PT). The 2008 Nike Hoop Summit game will be televised nationally by Fox Sports Nets (FSN).

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.

"As the legacy and the prestige of the Nike Hoop Summit continues to grow, we're excited to take another step and hold the 2008 Nike Hoop Summit in Portland at the Rose Garden," said USA Basketball executive director Jim Tooley. "The Nike Hoop Summit is now well established as a quality and unique basketball competition for our high school players.

"This is a premiere basketball event which has spotlighted talents like Kevin Durant, Kevin Garnett, Dirk Nowitzki, Tony Parker, Martell Webster, Monta Ellis and many others before they made big names for themselves. It is a very important event for USA Basketball as a large number of our Hoop Summit players have gone on to represent USA Basketball in other major international competitions.

"This is not your typical high school all-star game. This is a very special opportunity for elite USA players to represent their country in a meaningful competition that is played under international rules," added Tooley.

"We're honored to host such world class basketball talent," said Portland Trail Blazers president Larry Miller. "The list of players who have participated in the Nike Hoop Summit is incredible. Combined with Portland's reputation as one of the world's most sophisticated basketball cities, it sets the stage for a very special event and a unique opportunity for our fans to watch the best young players in the world compete."

“We are very proud to be partnering with USA Basketball and the Blazers to bring the Nike Hoop Summit to the City of Portland,” said George Raveling, Nike Director of Global Basketball Sports Marketing. “We feel this is a great platform to provide the best young basketball players in the world with a truly unique premium basketball experience.”

The 2008 USA Basketball Junior National Select and the World Select teams that will compete in the Nike Hoop Summit will be announced at a later date.

The 2008 USA Basketball Men’s Junior National Select Team that will compete in the 2008 Hoop Summit will consist of 10 players, a head coach and one assistant coach, and will be selected by USA Basketball’s Cadet and Youth Committee.

The USA Basketball Junior Development Committee is chaired by Don Showalter (Mid-Prairie High School, Wellman, Iowa), and also includes AAU appointees William Anderson, William Brown and Rod Seaford; National Federation of State High School Associations appointees Todd Butler and Eric Flannery (head coach, St. Edwards High School, Ohio); as well as athlete representatives Kermit Homes (19 USA Pan American Games) and Jimmy Oliver (1998 USA World Championship Team).

The World Select Team, consisting of top players worldwide who are 19-years-old or younger with the approved sanctioning of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), the world governing body of international basketball. The World Select Team will consist of 11 players from FIBA’s five geographic zones: FIBA Africa, FIBA Americas, FIBA Asia, FIBA Europe and FIBA Oceania.

The Nike Hoop Summit Players

Held annually from 1995-2000, the Nike Hoop Summit was resumed in 2004 after a three year hiatus. The Nike Hoop Summit was played in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2004 in the city hosting the men’s NCAA Final Four. Between 2005-2007 the Nike Hoop Summit was held at the FedExForum in Memphis, Tennessee.

The premiere event for high school seniors, 74 former USA and World Select Hoop Summit team members have been drafted by NBA teams, including 14 players in the 2007 and 2006 drafts.

Hoop Summit alum Kevin Durant was selected No. 2 in the 2007 draft by Seattle, while World Team member Yi Jianlian was chosen sixth by Milwaukee. Also selected in 2007 were Brandan Wright (8th- Charlotte Bobcats); Spencer Hawes (10th-Sacramento Kings); Thaddeus Young (12th-Philadelphia 76ers); Julian Wright (13th-New Orleans Hornets); and Peteri Koponen (30th-Philadelphia 76ers).

As of January 2007, 41 former USA players and nine former World team members play in the NBA.

Some of the American NBA standouts boasting of Hoop Summit experience include Shareef Abdur-Rahim (Sacramento Kings); Ron Artest (Sacramento Kings); Shane

Battier (Houston Rockets); Mike Bibby (Atlanta Hawks); Elton Brand (Los Angeles Clippers); Nick Collison (Seattle SuperSonics); Baron Davis (Golden State Warriors); Chris Duhon (Chicago Bulls); Mike Dunleavy (Golden State Warriors); Kevin Durant (Seattle SuperSonics); Monta Ellis (Golden State Warriors); Jordan Farmar (Los Angeles Lakers); Kevin Garnett (Minnesota Timberwolves); Rudy Gay (Memphis Grizzlies); Daniel Gibson (Cleveland Cavaliers); Al Harrington (Indiana Pacers); Kirk Hinrich (Chicago Bulls); Larry Hughes (Cleveland Cavaliers); Al Jefferson (Minnesota Timberwolves); Jared Jeffries (New York Knicks); Joe Johnson (Atlanta Hawks); Rashard Lewis (Orlando Magic); Stephon Marbury (New York Knicks); Darius Miles (Portland Trail Blazers); Jermaine O'Neal (Indiana Pacers); Zach Randolph (New York Knicks); Quentin Richardson (New York Knicks); J.R. Smith (Denver Nuggets); Josh Smith (Atlanta Hawks); Stromile Swift (Memphis Grizzlies); Sebastian Telfair (Minnesota Timberwolves); Martell Webster (Portland Trail Blazers); Louis Williams (Philadelphia 76ers); Brandan Wright (Golden State Warriors); Julian Wright (New Orleans Hornets); and Thaddeus Young (Philadelphia 76ers).

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

A large number of other former Hoop Summit players are currently competing on the collegiate level including five members of the Duke Blue Devils - Gerald Henderson, Greg Paulus, Jon Scheyer; Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith. Three former Hoop Summit players play at North Carolina, Wayne Ellington, Tyler Hansbrough and Tywon Lawson, while three alums are members of the Syracuse Orange, Paul Harris, Jonny Flynn and Donte Greene.

Also playing collegiately are Richard Hendrix at Alabama; Jerryd Bayless at Arizona; Vernon Macklin at Georgetown; D.J. White at Indiana; Brandon Rush at Kansas; Michael Beasley at Kansas State; Patrick Paterson at Kentucky; Derrick Rose at Memphis; Malik Hairston at Oregon; J.P. Prince at Tennessee; Kevin Love at UCLA; O.J. Mayo at USC; and Jon Brockman at Washington.

The Nike Hoop Summit Games

USA teams have won six consecutive and eight of the previous 10 Hoop Summit matchups and the Americans have done so on the shoulders of some outstanding individual showings.

In the three Nike Hoop Summit games held 2005-2007 in Memphis, the USA claimed wins in each contest. Bettering the World squad 100-80 in 2007, 109-91 in 2006 and 106-98 in 2005, the USA's good fortunes were fueled by impressive efforts by emerging stars like Mayo, Beasley, Love, Ellington, Durant, Hansbrough, Ellis and others.

In 2007, Mayo scored 20 points, Bayless and Love tallied 15 and 13, respectively, while Beasley grabbed nine boards and Flynn dished out 10 assists in the USA's 20-point win.

In 2006, it was Ellington who poured in 31 points on 11-of-16 shooting overall and 5-of-6 accuracy from 3-point range. Ellington's 31 points tied the USA game scoring mark. Durant was also impressive, accounting for 20 points and seven rebounds, while Lawson added 17 points and six assists.

The 2005 affair was a 106-98 contest with the U.S. finishing on top thanks to a marvelous 31 point, 10 rebound performance by the 6-10 Hanbrough. Tying the USA game scoring record, Hansbrough did so with 8-of-12 shooting from the floor and 15-of-18 marksmanship from the foul line. Also aiding the USA cause were Webster, 21 points, and Louis Williams, 20 points, while Paulus ran the USA offense and was credited with 10 assists.

The USA upended the World Select Team 99-79 in 2004 in San Antonio, Texas. In that contest, Josh Smith led the offense with 27 points on 12-of-18 shooting, and his 12 made field goals set a new single game USA Hoop Summit record. J.R. Smith added 17 points in the win, while Gay and Jefferson were credited with 14 and 13 points respectively. Telfair recorded a game high seven assists, tying the then USA Hoop Summit single game record in the process.

In the 2000 Hoop Summit the USA edged the World Select Team 98-97 in Indianapolis, Ind. In the narrowest game in Hoop Summit history, Randolph accounted for 24 points and eight rebounds, Miles contributed 15 points and eight boards, while France's Parker paced the World squad in the loss, scoring 20 points and dishing off seven assists.

In 1999 in Tampa, Fla., USA guard Jacobsen scored a U.S. team record 31 points on 6-of-8 shooting from 3-point as the Americans rolled to a 107-95 victory.

The World Select Team earned a hard-fought 104-99 victory in 1988 thanks to a Hoop Summit record 33 points and 14 rebounds from future NBA All-Star Nowitzki. Harrington posted 26 points and nine rebounds for the U.S. in the loss.

In the 1997 Hoop Summit, contested at Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., future NBA standouts Hughes and Artest posted 20 and 19 points, respectively, as the USA squad battled to a 97-90 triumph.

Despite the efforts of the USA's O'Neal, who finished with 21 points, 10 rebounds and seven blocked shots, the World Team claimed a 104-96 win in the 1996 Hoop Summit in Charlotte, N.C. Vladimir Bogojevic led the World club with 22 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and three steals.

In the inaugural Hoop Summit contest held in Springfield, Mass., the USA won 86-77 as Garnett accumulated 10 points, 10 rebounds and nine blocked shots, Marbury added 10

points and five assists, while Albert White tossed in 13 points and Jelani McCoy added 11.

USA Basketball

Based in Colorado Springs, Colo., USA Basketball is a nonprofit organization and the national governing body for men's and women's basketball in the United States. As the recognized governing body for basketball in the United States by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), USA Basketball is responsible for the selection, training and fielding of USA teams that compete in FIBA sponsored international basketball competitions, as well as for some national competitions.

USA Basketball is an organization made up of associations. Current USA Basketball active members include the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU); Continental Basketball Association (CBA); National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC); National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA); National Basketball Association (NBA); National Basketball Association Development League; National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA); National Federation of High Schools (NFHS); National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA); National Pro-Am City Leagues Association (NPACLA); National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA); United States Armed Forces; USA Deaf Sports Federation (USADSF); Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA); and the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). These 15 member organizations have representation on USA Basketball's Board of Directors and various committees, and ultimately determine how USA Basketball operates.

USA Basketball was organized in 1974 and known as the Amateur Basketball Association of the United States of America (ABAUSA). The name change to USA Basketball occurred Oct. 12, 1989, shortly after FIBA modified its rules to allow professional basketball players to participate in international competitions. USA Basketball then admitted the NBA as an active member and made the change.

USA Basketball is governed by a 10-member Executive Committee and 25-member Board of Directors, who are appointed and elected by active members. Val Ackerman, founding President of the WNBA, serves as President of USA Basketball for the 2005-2008 term. Serving since January 2001 as USA Basketball's Executive Director is Jim Tooley, who has been with USA Basketball since 1993.

During the first three years of the 2005-2008 quadrennium, over 550 men and women players and 126 coaches participated in USA Basketball, including the now biannual USA Basketball men's and women's Youth Development Festivals, USA Basketball trials, and USA Basketball teams. USA teams competed in 26 major international events from 2005-2007 and won medals an astounding 23 times, including gold or top finishes 19 times, silver twice and bronze medals two times.

The competitions in which USA teams regularly compete include the Olympics, FIBA World Championships, FIBA Americas Championships, Pan American Games, World University Games, U19 World Championships, Nike Hoop Summit and USA Basketball Youth Development Festivals. USA Basketball also sanctions U.S. basketball team tours of foreign countries and foreign basketball team tours of the U.S., as well as oversees the certification of FIBA and USA Basketball officials and the assignment of those officials to international competitions, and the licensing of players to play professionally overseas.

Hoop Summit History

DATE SITE RESULT TV

April 7, 2007 Memphis, Tennessee USA 100, World 80 Fox Sports Net
April 8, 2006 Memphis, Tennessee USA 109, World 91 Fox Sports Net
April 9, 2005 Memphis, Tennessee USA 106, World 98 Fox Sports Net
April 4, 2004 San Antonio, Texas USA 99, World Select Team 79 Fox Sports Net
April 2, 2000 Indianapolis, Indiana USA 98, World Select Team 97 ESPN
March 28, 1999 Tampa, Florida USA 107, World Select Team 95 ESPN
March 29, 1998 San Antonio, Texas World Select Team 104, USA 99 ESPN2
April 19, 1997 Lake Buena Vista, Florida USA 97, World Select Team 90 CBS
April 20, 1996 Charlotte, North Carolina World Select Team 104, USA 96 CBS
May 13, 1995 Springfield, Massachusetts USA 86, World Select Team 77 CBS