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# McDONALD'S UNVEILS FINAL ROSTERS OF 2021 ALL AMERICANS

The Final 48 Cement Legacy Among Basketball Greats

Chicago, III. (Feb. 23, 2021) – The McDonald's All American Games is the pinnacle of high school basketball. Each year ushers a new group of young players into a club of legendary athletes, many of whom are known by a single name: Shaq, Lebron, Candace, A'ja. Continuing a decades-long tradition of celebrating the next generation of basketball greats, McDonald's today announced the final rosters for the 2021 McDonald's All American Games teams.

From lockdown defenders to three-point specialists, these 48 high school seniors – comprising the top 24 girls and 24 boys in the country – were selected by a committee of basketball experts from more than 700 nominated players. While the top high school talent won't face off on the court this year due to COVID-19, a virtual celebration is being planned to give these incredible student-athletes the shine they deserve for their accomplishments and dedication to basketball.

"These young men and women are so special and have accomplished remarkable feats over the past four years," said Joe Wootten, McDonald's All American Games Selection Committee Chairman. "It is our honor to continue investing in and supporting the next generation of basketball stars."

"We are proud of this incredible group of student-athletes for all they have achieved, both on and off the court," said Joe Erlinger, President, McDonald's USA. "On behalf of McDonald's, I'd like to congratulate the class of 2021 as they carry on the storied legacy of the Games. We are thrilled to celebrate them as McDonald's All Americans."



## Final Roster Details

This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year in which McDonald's has named a girls team. The 2021 girls roster features four players from both California and Georgia, the most represented states. It includes five-star prospect **Azzi Fudd** (St. John's College High School – DC), fellow University of Connecticut commit **Caroline Ducharme** (Noble & Greenough School – MA) and University of Texas-bound **Aaliyah Moore** (Moore High School – OK).

Other notable players include **Jersey Wolfenbarger** (Northside High School – AR) and **Rori Harmon** (Cypress Creek High School – TX). They will be joined by Stanford-bound **Brooke Demetre** (Mater Dei High School – CA) and **Payton Verhulst** (Bishop Miege High School – KS).

The university with the most 2021 McDonald's All Americans from the Girls roster is **South Carolina** with four girls.

The 2021 Boys roster features the country's top talent hailing from 19 different states, including Chet Holmgren (Minnehaha Academy – MN), Duke-bound Paolo Banchero (O'Dea High School – WA), Jaden Hardy (Coronado High School – NV), Auburn University commit Jabari Smith (Sandy Creek High School – GA) and Nate Bittle (Prolific Prep – CA).

Other notable players include **Kennedy Chandler** (Sunrise Christian Academy – KS), who will attend the University of Tennessee in the fall. The 6'1" point guard will be joined by University of Alabama commit **J.D. Davison** (Calhoun High School – AL) and **Peyton Watson** (Long Beach Polytechnic High School – CA), who plans to suit up for UCLA next season.

The college with the most committed McDonald's All Americans from the Boys roster is the University of **Michigan** with three.

## Games Go Virtual

Last week, McDonald's announced the difficult decision to forego an in-person Games experience and honor the 2021 class through a virtual celebration, that will highlight the Ronald



<u>McDonald House Charities</u>® (RMHC®). In keeping with the storied tradition, the final 48 will forever be known as McDonald's All Americans and have their legacy cemented as some of the greatest to play the game.

As part of the celebration, McDonald's will still name the Morgan Wootten Player of the Year for both the girls and boys this spring – an award given annually to the nation's best high school player who has demonstrated outstanding character, exhibited leadership and embodied the values of being a student-athlete through school work and community affairs. In addition, each player will receive their official jerseys, and a collection of adidas gear and player rings that are given exclusively to those named to the McDonald's All American Games final roster. This year's class and the legacy of the Games will also be featured in a one-hour special on ESPN Saturday, April 3. Additional details around the celebration will be shared soon.

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