



EMBARGOED UNTIL 1/6/21 AT 7PM ET

Contact: Brian Takao
John R. Wooden Award
woodenaward@laac.net
(213) 630-5231

John R. Wooden Award

Presented by Wendy's

Announces Midseason Top 25 Watch List

Two players make their debut on the Wooden Watch

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (January 6, 2021) – The Los Angeles Athletic Club announced the John R. Wooden Award® presented by Wendy's® Midseason Top 25 Watch List today on ESPNU. Chosen by a poll of national college basketball experts based on their performances during the 2020-21 season thus far, the list comprises of 25 student-athletes who are front-runners for the sport's most prestigious honor.

On the 2021 Wooden Award™ Midseason Top 25, two players make their debut on the Wooden Watch™: Caitlin Clark (Iowa) and Haley Jones (Stanford). Four schools have multiple players on the list, led by Connecticut (Paige Bueckers, Olivia Nelson-Ododa, and Christyn Williams), and followed by Arkansas (Chelsea Dungee and Destiny Slocum), South Carolina (Aliyah Boston and Zia Cooke), and Stanford (Jones and Kiana Williams).

The SEC leads all conferences with nine selections, followed by the Big Ten and Pac-12 with four selections each, the Big 12 and Big East with three each, and the ACC with two selections.

The players on the list are considered strong candidates for the 2021 John R. Wooden Award Women's Player of the Year presented by Wendy's. Players not chosen to the preseason or midseason list are still eligible for the Wooden Award™ National Ballot. The National Ballot consists of 15 top players who have proven to their universities that they meet or exceed the qualifications of the Wooden Award. Voters will rank in order 10 of those 15 players when voting opens prior to the NCAA Tournament and will allow voters to take into consideration performance during early round games. The Wooden Award All American Team™ will be announced the week of the "Elite Eight" round of the NCAA Tournament. The winner of the 2021 John R. Wooden Award will be presented by Wendy's following the NCAA Tournament in April.

About the John R. Wooden Award

Created in 1976, the John R. Wooden Award Program hosts the most prestigious honors in college basketball recognizing the Wooden Award Most Outstanding Player for men and women, the Wooden Award All American Teams for men and women and the annual selection of the Wooden Award Legends of Coaching recipient. Honorees have proven to their university that they meet or exceed the qualifications of the John R. Wooden Award as set forth by Coach Wooden and the Wooden Award Steering Committee, including making progress towards graduation and maintaining at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Previous winners include Larry Bird ('79), Michael Jordan ('84), Tim Duncan ('97), Kevin Durant ('07), Candace Parker ('07; '08), Maya Moore ('09; '11), Chiney Ogwumike ('14), Breanna Stewart ('15; '16) and last year's recipients, Sabrina Ionescu of Oregon and Obi Toppin of Dayton.

Since its inception, the John R. Wooden Award has contributed nearly one million dollars to the universities' general scholarship fund in the names of the Wooden Award All American recipients and has sent more than 1,000 underprivileged children to week-long college basketball camps. Additionally, the John R. Wooden Award partners with the Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC) each year to host the Wooden Award Special Olympics Southern California Basketball Tournament. The day-long tournament brings together Special Olympics athletes and Wooden Award All Americans and coaches in attendance. It is hosted at the Los Angeles Athletic Club during the John R. Wooden Award Weekend.

For up-to-date information on the Wooden Award, please go to www.woodenaward.com and follow the Wooden Award on Facebook at www.facebook.com/woodenaward and @WoodenAward on Twitter and Instagram.

###

Wooden Award

Presented by Wendy's

2020-21 Midseason Top 25

| Name | School | Conference | Height | Class | Position |
|------------------|----------------|------------|--------|-------|----------|
| Aliyah Boston | South Carolina | SEC | 6-5 | Soph | F |
| Paige Bueckers | Connecticut | Big East | 5-11 | Fr. | G |
| Caitlin Clark | Iowa | Big Ten | 6-0 | Fr. | G |
| Charli Collier | Texas | Big 12 | 6-5 | Jr. | F/C |
| Zia Cooke | South Carolina | SEC | 5-9 | Soph | G |
| Elissa Cunane | NC State | ACC | 6-5 | Jr. | C |
| Rennia Davis | Tennessee | SEC | 6-2 | Sr. | G/F |
| Chelsea Dungee | Arkansas | SEC | 5-11 | Sr. | G |
| Dana Evans | Louisville | ACC | 5-6 | Sr. | G |
| Arella Guirantes | Rutgers | Big Ten | 5-11 | Sr. | G |
| Naz Hillmon | Michigan | Big Ten | 6-2 | Jr. | F |
| Rhyné Howard* | Kentucky | SEC | 6-2 | Jr. | G |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------|------|------|-----|
| Ricke Jackson | Mississippi State | SEC | 6-2 | Soph | F |
| Ashley Joens | Iowa State | Big 12 | 6-0 | Jr. | G/F |
| Haley Jones | Stanford | Pac-12 | 6-1 | Soph | G |
| N'dea Jones | Texas A&M | SEC | 6-2 | Sr. | F |
| Aari McDonald | Arizona | Pac-12 | 5-6 | Sr. | G |
| Olivia Nelson-Ododa | Connecticut | Big East | 6-5 | Jr. | F |
| Michaela Onyenwere | UCLA | Pac-12 | 6-0 | Sr. | F |
| Lindsey Pulliam | Northwestern | Big Ten | 5-10 | Sr. | G |
| Destiny Slocum | Arkansas | SEC | 5-7 | Sr. | G |
| NaLyssa Smith | Baylor | Big 12 | 6-2 | Jr. | F |
| Unique Thompson | Auburn | SEC | 6-3 | Sr. | F |
| Christyn Williams | Connecticut | Big East | 5-11 | Jr. | G |
| Kiana Williams | Stanford | Pac-12 | 5-8 | Sr. | G |

*indicates player selected as 2020 Wooden Award All American