Basketball Hall of Fame Names Twenty Small Forwards to Watch List for 2021 Julius Erving Award

Starting Five Fan Voting Presented by Dell Technologies to go Live on Friday, November 6

Springfield, Mass. (Nov. 4, 2020) — The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today the 20 watch list members for the *2021 Julius Erving Small Forward of the Year Award*. Named after Class of 1993 Hall of Famer and 16-year professional basketball player Julius Erving, the annual honor in its seventh year recognizes the top small forwards in Division I men's college basketball. A national committee of top college basketball personnel determined the watch list of 20 candidates.

"After the abrupt end to last year's season, I know we are all very excited to return to the court and offer these outstanding student athletes the opportunity to shine," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. "We encourage fans to support their favorite players by participating in the Starting Five Fan Voting presented by Dell Technologies. These esteemed annual awards would not be possible without the support of the fans, Dell Technologies, our knowledgeable selection committee and the awards' namesake Hall of Famers."

Julius Erving attended the University of Massachusetts and averaged 26.3 points and 20.2 rebounds per game, making him one of only six NCAA men's basketball players to average more than 20 points and 20 rebounds per game. After two seasons, Erving made the jump to the American Basketball Association and was the league's most recognizable player when it merged with the National Basketball Association in 1976. During his professional career, Erving won three championships, four most valuable player awards and three scoring titles. In 1996, he was named a member of the NBA's 50th Anniversary All-Time Team.

College basketball fans are encouraged to participate in Fan Voting presented by Dell Technologies in each of the three rounds. In late January, the watch list of 20 players for the 2021 Julius Erving Small Forward of the Year Award will be narrowed to just 10. In late February, five finalists will be presented to Mr. Erving and the Hall of Fame's selection committee.

The winner of the 2021 Julius Erving Award will be presented on Friday, April 9, 2021, along with the other four members of the Men's Starting Five. Additional awards being presented include the Bob Cousy Point Guard Award, the Jerry West Shooting Guard Award, the Karl Malone Power Forward Award and the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Center Award, in addition to the Women's Starting Five.

Previous winners of the Julius Erving Small Forward of the Year Award include **Saddiq Bey**, Villanova (2020), **Rui Hachimura**, Gonzaga (2019), **Mikal Bridges**, Villanova (2018), **Josh Hart**, Villanova (2017), **Denzel Valentin**e, Michigan State (2016) and **Stanley Johnson**, Arizona (2015).

For more information on the 2021 Julius Erving Small Forward of the Year Award and the latest updates, log onto www.hoophallawards.com and follow **@hoophall** and **#ErvingAward** on Twitter and Instagram. **Starting Five Fan Voting presented by Dell Technologies will go live on Friday, November 6.**

2021 Julius Erving Small Forward of the Year Award Candidates*

Derrick Alston Jr.	Boise State
Jalen Johnson	Duke
Wendell Moore	Duke
Jayden Gardner	East Carolina
Keyontae Johnson	Florida
Corey Kispert	Gonzaga
Brandon Boston Jr.	Kentucky
D.J. Jeffries	Memphis
Aaron Wiggins	Maryland
Isaiah Livers	Michigan
Aaron Henry	Michigan State
Ron Harper Jr.	Rutgers
Matt Mitchell	San Diego State
Ziaire Williams	Stanford
Yves Pons	Tennessee
Terrence Shannon, Jr.	Texas Tech
Chris Smith	UCLA
Timmy Allen	Utah
Jermaine Samuels	Villanova
Sam Hauser	Virginia

Players can play their way onto and off of the list at any point in the 2020-21 season

About the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

Located in Springfield, Massachusetts, the city where basketball was born, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting, preserving and celebrating the game of basketball at every level – men and women, amateur and professional players, coaches and contributors, both domestically and internationally. The Hall of Fame museum is home to more than 400 inductees and over 40,000 square feet of basketball history. Nearly 200,000 people visit the Hall of Fame museum each year to learn about the game, experience the interactive exhibits and test their skills on the Jerry Colangelo "Court of Dreams." Best known for its annual marquee Enshrinement Ceremony honoring the game's elite, the Hall of Fame also operates over 70 high school and collegiate competitions annually throughout the country and abroad. For more information on the Basketball Hall of Fame organization, its museum and events, visit www.hoophall.com, follow **@hoophall** and or call 1-877-4HOOPLA.

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