



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NABC AND KANSAS CITY CIVIC LEADERS ANNOUNCE
FIRST ANNUAL COLLEGE BASKETBALL EXPERIENCE WEEKEND,
SET FOR NOVEMBER 19-21, 2006**

**Five of College Basketball's Greatest Names to be Inaugural
Inductees into National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame**

KANSAS CITY, MO – The **College Basketball Experience Weekend**, a three-day annual event celebrating the best of men's college basketball, will launch in November 2006 in Kansas City. It will combine inductions into the new **National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame** with the former Guardians Classic basketball tournament, which is being renamed the **College Basketball Experience Classic**.

This major college basketball multi-day event, which is being coordinated by the **National Collegiate Basketball Coaches Association (NABC)**, will be televised nationally by ESPN. As the national broadcast partner, ESPN will televise the semi-finals and finals of the tournament, as well as the Hall of Fame induction ceremony, on its various sports networks.

Five of the greatest names in college basketball history will be inducted as the Founding Class of 2006 at the inaugural **Induction Gala presented by Sprint** on Sunday, November 19, 2006. The honorees include **John Wooden**, UCLA's legendary "Wizard of Westwood" who won more national collegiate basketball championships than any other coach; three-time national Player of the Year **Oscar Robertson** of the University of Cincinnati; **Bill Russell**, one of the game's great defenders who led the University of San Francisco to back-to-back NCAA titles in 1955 and 1956; former University of North Carolina head coach **Dean Smith**, the winningest coach in college basketball history; and **Dr. James Naismith**, who invented the game of basketball.

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"Kansas City is proud to be the home of the new College Basketball Experience and National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame," said **The Honorable Kay Barnes**, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. "By combining the annual Hall of Fame inductions with a basketball tournament that is becoming one of the nation's finest, we are creating a wonderful, multi-day event that adds another chapter in Kansas City's rich tradition in college basketball."

The induction ceremonies are scheduled for Sunday evening (Nov. 19) at the Crown Center Exhibit Hall in Kansas City. The event will begin a three-day extravaganza of college basketball in the downtown area as the semifinals and finals of the College Basketball Experience Classic will follow on Monday and Tuesday (Nov. 20 & 21). The 2006 tournament will be played at Municipal Auditorium, with plans to then move to the new Sprint Center upon its completion in 2007.

This year's 16-team Guardians Classic will begin on Nov. 12-15 with the first two rounds to be played on the campuses of **Duke University** in Durham, N.C.; **Texas Tech University** in Lubbock, Tex.; **Marquette University** in Milwaukee, Wis.; and **Stanford University** in Stanford, Calif. The four regional champions advance to Kansas City for the championship bracket.

The event is named after the new college basketball fan interactive facility that is scheduled to open in November, 2007 as part of the Sprint Center. The "College Basketball Experience" will be the nation's only facility that celebrates, in its entirety, the sport of college basketball. The National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame will be housed within the 41,500 square foot fan destination site.

"The NABC stands poised to create one of the most exciting, immersive entertainment venues in the world," said **Mike Krzyzewski**, Duke University's head coach who also serves as President of the NABC Foundation.

The CBE will be a world-class attraction for Kansas City, which has a rich history with college basketball and has hosted more Final Four tournaments than any other city. It will feature highly interactive venues in which college basketball fans will be able to feel the excitement, energy and spirit that the game generates in college arenas throughout America.

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“The College Basketball Experience Weekend is all about celebrating college basketball,” said **Jim Haney**, executive director of the NABC. “At the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame, we will celebrate coaches, players, fans and contributors to our great game. The energy, excitement, passion and unpredictability of college basketball is what makes it so exciting.”

The five inaugural honorees being inducted this fall into the Hall of Fame represent each of the three categories that will be recognized every year – coach, player and contributor. They are part of a Founding Class of over 100 individuals who are members of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame with roots in college basketball and are automatically being included in the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. The remaining Founding Class members will be officially inducted over a period of years at the annual induction ceremony in Kansas City.

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About the National Association of Basketball Coaches

Located in Kansas City, MO, the NABC was founded in 1927 by Phog Allen, the legendary University of Kansas basketball coach. Allen, a student of James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, organized coaches into this collective group to serve as Guardians of the Game. The NABC currently claims nearly 5,000 members consisting primarily of college men’s basketball coaches. All members of the NABC are expected to uphold the core values of being a Guardian of the Game by bringing attention to the positive aspects of the sport of basketball and the role coaches play in the academic and athletic lives of today’s student-athletes. The four core values of being a Guardian of the Game are advocacy, leadership, service, and education. Additional information about the NABC, its programs, and membership can be found at www.NABC.com

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