DisneySPORTS NEWS

Estimated 4,800 Elite Athletes Compete in Orlando as 16U/17U AAU Boys Basketball National Championships and Super Showcases Return to Disney

Marquee annual AAU boys basketball event returns to ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex; event expected to attract hundreds of college coaches from across the nation

ORLANDO, Fla. (July 11, 2016) – Approximately **4,800 elite athletes** from across the nation will go head-to-head at the 16U/17U AAU Boys' Basketball National Championships (July 13-18) and Super Showcase (July 20-24) events, which **returns to ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort this week**.

"The AAU Boys Basketball 10th/11th Grade National Championships and Super Showcases are the pinnacle event for AAU basketball athletes," said Boo Williams, AAU Boys Basketball National Chair. "We are excited for the opportunity to return our premier event to ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex this year to give our elite athletes an opportunity to compete in one of the most elite youth sports venues in the world."

Many of the top teams and athletes will be showcased in front of hundreds of college coaches. Teams participating in AAU National Championships this week include **17U Each 1 Teach 1 (No. 20 ranked)** and **16U/17U Nike South Beach**. Those competing in the Super Showcase events later this month include **16U All Ohio Red (No. 22 ranked)**, **17U Team Charlotte (No. 1 ranked)** and **Baltimore Elite (No. 10 ranked)**.

A **full list of competing teams and schedules** will be available at www.aauboysbasketball.org soon.

The union's marquee basketball event, which is expected to attract 400 total teams – 175 to Nationals and 225 to Super Showcases – from an **estimated 25 states** and Puerto Rico, was held in Orlando for 17 consecutive seasons before moving to the Kentucky Exposition Center (Louisville, Ky.) for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. The demand from participating teams called for a vacation destination and accompanying entertainment options suited to young teenagers and their families, making a return to the world's premier vacation destination the most attractive fit.

The AAU National Championships are the proving ground for the next generation of college and professional superstars. A number of current NBA stars, including **Dwyane Wade** (Chicago Bulls), **Chandler Parsons** (Memphis Grizzlies), **reigning two-time NBA MVP Stephen Curry** (Golden State Warriors) and **2016 NBA Champion Kyrie Irving**

(Cleveland Cavaliers), competed in these events as youth athletes.

Select championship games will air live on WatchESPN and the WatchESPN application from ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, which has become the **worldwide leader in ESPN3 content production**.

For more information about the AAU Boys' Basketball National Championships and Super Showcases, visit www.aauboysbasketball.org.

Media interested in covering this event should contact Cody Norman, AAU Public Relations Manager at cnorman@aausports.org.