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## Standing Room Only at 2017 Slam Dunk to the Beach

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**Lewes, DE – January 8, 2018** – The atmosphere was electric and the house was packed at Slam Dunk to the Beach. Held at Cape Henlopen High School on December 27-29, crowds saw 20 teams compete in 19 games that brought spectators from across the region and teams from across the country to Lewes, DE.

“Slam Dunk to the Beach was three incredible days of elite high school basketball,” said **Dr. Matt Robinson**, Chairman of the Delaware Sports Commission (DSC). “It is an honor for the DSC to bring future college and NBA basketball stars to Delaware and showcase Sussex County's offerings.”

A tournament of this caliber could not be produced without the support of teams, sponsors and the local community.

“Slam Dunk to the Beach was a great experience with an awesome atmosphere!” said Gray Collegiate Academy Head Coach, **Dion Bethea**. “This being our second year participating the fans and community really come out and support such an unbelievable event!”

The Delaware Sports Commission also released the Slam Dunk to the Beach All-Tournament team. The honorees include seven representatives from the field's 20 teams. **Jalen Carey** (Immaculate Conception), **Jake Forrester** (Westtown), **Juwan Gary** (Gray Collegiate), **Mason Hooks** (Harvard-Westlake), **Caleb Matthews** (Smyrna), **Cam Reddish** (Westtown) and **Simi Shittu** (Vermont) represent six players from the national field and one from Delaware.

Leading Immaculate Conception (NJ) to an unbeaten trip to the Delaware beaches, senior Jalen Carey scored 60 points in his two games played. The Syracuse commit dropped 33 in his first contest against Saint James and scored 27 as an encore against Archbishop Wood. Carey shot an outstanding 9-of-15 (60%) from beyond the arc and a perfect 17-of-17 from the free throw line.

One half of the first teammate duo to earn Slam Dunk All-Tournament Team honors, Jake Forrester of Westtown (PA) finished the event with 44 points on 18-of-22 (82%) shooting and 8 blocks on the defensive side. The future Indiana Hoosier scored 16 of Westtown's 31 first half points against Dillard (FL), keeping the Moose in the game before ending with a team high 25 points and a victory.

A crowd favorite a season ago, Juwan Gary's return to Cape Henlopen High School was nothing short of magnificent. The Gray Collegiate (SC) junior scored 37 points in his first game back in Lewes, a mark that would fall just two points shy of the Slam Dunk to the Beach single game record of 39 set by his teammate, **Jalek Felton**, last season and **Mikey Dixon** of Sanford (DE) in 2015. Gary would finish with a two game total of 58 points, 20 rebounds and one Double-Double.

The first student-athletes to compete in four Slam Dunk to the Beach games at a single event came from Harvard-Westlake (CA), and the 6'10" Mason Hooks stood tall amongst the competition in all four games. The big man would set two tournament records with 70 points and 45 rebounds, while also registering three Double-Doubles and a four game average of 17.5 points and 11.3 rebounds per game.



Representing Delaware and the defending DIAA State Champions, Caleb Matthews of Smyrna (DE) proved that big talent can come from a small state. The senior shooting guard registered the first Triple-Double since the return of Slam Dunk to the Beach with 24 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds during the event's first game on Wednesday afternoon. Matthews followed up his performance the next day with 19 points against national power, Roselle Catholic (NJ).

For an unprecedented third time in his four year high school career, Cameron Reddish of Westtown (PA) has been named Slam Dunk to the Beach All-Tournament team. Ranked by 247Sports as the nation's top ranked player, Reddish dazzled the Lewes crowd once again on his way to 56 points in two games. The Slam Dunk to the Beach faithful have seen the Duke University commit total 155 points in his career at the Beach.

"It's definitely one of the best tournaments I have ever played in my life," said the Reddish, the Class of 2018's top Small Forward. "The atmosphere is crazy every single time. The fans are great, the competition is great, it's just a great tournament!"

In front of a large crowd of spectators that included his future college coach, **Bryce Drew** of Vanderbilt, Simi Shittu put on quite the show. The Vermont Academy (VT) power forward slammed home three ferocious dunks over a 48-second span in the first quarter vs. Sidwell Friends (DC) to win quickly win over the fans before going on to win the game. Shittu's 21 points and 11 rebounds in the contest were both team highs in the 20-point victory. The nation's 6<sup>th</sup> ranked recruit would tally 17 points in his next contest against Gray Collegiate (SC) despite an injury limiting him to only 11 minutes.

The three day event was capped off by a 37 point outburst by Cape Henlopen (DE) senior, **Ian Robertson**. The forward from the host school made 12 shots and 13 free throws on his way to tying the 2017 tournament high for points in a game. Robertson, along with Cam Reddish of Haverford (PA) and Westtown (PA) and **Nazreon Reid** of Roselle Catholic (NJ) are the only players to appear at Slam Dunk to the Beach in each of the last four seasons.

"Slam Dunk to the Beach Tournament was once again a great experience for Cape Henlopen." said Vikings Head Coach, **Stephen Re**. "Not only for our basketball team but for the community, as well. It is always ran extremely well and organized to the final detail. This tournament gives our student athletes the experience to see and play against the very best. As a coach, it has provided a solid foundation to help prepare our team for the bulk of our conference schedule and provide some confidence heading into the rest of the season and post season."

The crowds watched the future of basketball up close as many of the nation's top recruits shined and entertained over a three day span. The All-Tournament Team was chosen by select members of the media and the Slam Dunk to the Beach committee.

### **About Delaware Sports Commission:**

The Delaware Sports Commission, a not-for-profit organization, was established to attract regional and national level sporting events to Delaware as an endeavor to positively impact Delaware's economy. The DSC also assists with the retention and growth of existing sporting events. To date, the DSC has partnered with over 50 regional and national events, paving the way for future large-scale events to be held in Delaware