

## WATCH LIST RELEASED FOR MEN'S CITIZEN NAISMITH TROPHY

# 2020 Season Tips Off with 50 Players to Watch Competing for the Top Men's Honor in College Basketball

**ATLANTA (November 4, 2019)** – The Atlanta Tipoff Club announced today the 50 men's players to watch during the season-long competition for the 2020 Citizen Naismith Trophy Men's Player of the Year honor. A list of the midseason 30 team will be released in early February, followed by the 10 national semifinalists and four finalists on March 5, 2020, and March 17, 2020, respectively. The 2020 Citizen Naismith Trophy will be awarded in the hometown of the Atlanta Tipoff Club during the Final Four at the Naismith Awards Brunch on April 5, 2020.

"The beginning of the season is filled with excitement, optimism and anticipation as each team and every player is undefeated, making the race for the Citizen Naismith Trophy wide open. While these 50 candidates are ones to keep an eye on, there will be plenty of others who will enter the competition as the season heats up," said Eric Oberman, executive director of the Atlanta Tipoff Club. "This year will be especially exciting for this award as we will honor the nation's top player in our home city when Atlanta hosts the 2020 Final Four."

Overall, the SEC tops the list with nine players represented, while the Big Ten and ACC are close runners-up with eight and seven candidates on the watch list, respectively. Seven schools lead the watch list with two players apiece, including Duke, which has won more Citizen Naismith Trophies (8) than any other school with the addition of last year's winner, Zion Williamson. Additional schools with two players represented include Davidson, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland and Michigan State. The 2019 Jersey Mike's Naismith High School Player of the Year award winner, Isaiah Stewart, now a freshman at the University of Washington, also made this year's college watch list. Players who do not make the watch list are still eligible to be selected for the midseason 30 team.

"The Citizen Naismith Trophy rewards the impressive efforts of the players on the watch list," said Eric Horowitz, managing director U.S. and travel retail, Citizen Watch Company of America, Inc. "We look forward to watching them compete for the Men's Player of the Year honor."

## 2020 Citizen Naismith Trophy Men's Preseason Watch List

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NAME	CLASS	POSITION	SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	
Bryce Aiken	Sr.	G	Harvard	IVY	
Cole Anthony	Fr.	G	North Carolina	ACC	
Udoka Azubuike	Sr.	С	Kansas	Big 12	
Kamar Baldwin	Sr.	G	Butler	BIG EAST	
Charles Bassey	So.	С	Western Kentucky	C-USA	
Kerry Blackshear Jr.	Sr.	F	Florida	SEC	
Vernon Carey Jr.	Fr.	С	Duke	ACC	
Yoeli Childs	Sr.	F	BYU	WCC	
Tristan Clark	Jr.	F	Baylor	Big 12	
Anthony Cowan Jr.	Sr.	G	Maryland	Big Ten	
Jarron Cumberland	Sr.	G	Cincinnati	AAC	

NAME	CLASS	POSITION	SCHOOL	CONFERENCE
Mamadi Diakite	Sr.	F	Virginia	ACC
Alpha Diallo	Sr.	G	Providence	BIG EAST
Ayo Dosunmu	So.	G	Illinois	Big Ten
Devon Dotson	So.	G	Kansas	Big 12
Anthony Edwards	Fr.	G	Georgia	SEC
Jordan Ford	Sr.	G	St. Mary's	WCC
Kellan Grady	Jr.	G	Davidson	A-10
Jon Axel Gudmundsson	Sr.	G	Davidson	A-10
Ashton Hagans	So.	G	Kentucky	SEC
Tyrese Haliburton	So.	G	Iowa State	Big 12
Markus Howard	Sr.	G	Marquette	BIG EAST
Markell Johnson	Sr.	G	NC State	ACC
Tre Jones	So.	G	Duke	ACC
Anthony Lamb	Sr.	F	Vermont	America East
Kira Lewis Jr.	So.	G	Alabama	SEC
Nico Mannion	Fr.	G	Arizona	Pac-12
Naji Marshall	Jr.	F	Xavier	BIG EAST
Tyrese Maxey	Fr.	G	Kentucky	SEC
Skylar Mays	Sr.	G	LSU	SEC
Sam Merrill	Sr.	G	Utah State	Mountain West
John Mooney	Sr.	F	Notre Dame	ACC
Andrew Nembhard	So.	G	Florida	SEC
Jordan Nwora	Jr.	F	Louisville	ACC
Reggie Perry	So.	F	Mississippi State	SEC
Myles Powell	Sr.	G	Seton Hall	BIG EAST
Payton Pritchard	Sr.	G	Oregon	Pac-12
Zavier Simpson	Sr.	G	Michigan	Big Ten
Jalen Smith	So.	F	Maryland	Big Ten
Lamar Stevens	Sr.	F	Penn State	Big Ten
Isaiah Stewart	Fr.	F	Washington	Pac-12
Killian Tillie	Sr.	F	Gonzaga	WCC
Xavier Tillman	Jr.	F	Michigan State	Big Ten
Tres Tinkle	Sr.	F	Oregon State	Pac-12
Obi Toppin	So.	F	Dayton	A-10
Breein Tyree	Sr.	G	Ole Miss	SEC
Kaleb Wesson	Jr.	F	Ohio State	Big Ten
Cassius Winston	Sr.	G	Michigan State	Big Ten
James Wiseman	Fr.	С	Memphis	AAC
McKinley Wright IV	Jr.	G	Colorado	Pac-12

## **ABOUT THE ATLANTA TIPOFF CLUB**

Founded during the 1956-57 season, the Atlanta Tipoff Club is committed to promoting the game of basketball and recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of those who make the game so exciting. The Atlanta Tipoff

Club administers the Naismith Awards, the most prestigious national honors in all of college and high school basketball. Named in honor of Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game of basketball, the family of Naismith Awards annually recognizes the most outstanding men's and women's college and high school basketball players and coaches. Other Naismith Awards are presented to the men's and women's college basketball defensive players of the year, as well as lifetime achievement awards to basketball officials and outstanding contributors to the game. UCLA's Lew Alcindor received the first Citizen Naismith Trophy in 1969, while the late Anne Donovan (Old Dominion) was the inaugural women's recipient in 1983. Corporate partners of the Naismith Awards include Citizen Watch Company, Jersey Mike's and Werner Ladder.

### **ABOUT CITIZEN**

Citizen, a pioneer in watchmaking and innovation since 1918, promotes excellence and creativity with a deeprooted respect for craftsmanship. Citizen advocates "Better Starts Now," searching for and accomplishing goals that cultivate positive change. Driven to create timepieces enjoyed by citizens all over the world, Citizen formed an alliance partnership with Disney in 2018, another powerhouse brand with similar values. With a long-term partnership in place, Citizen participates in activations surrounding the Disney Parks, Marvel, Star Wars and more. Citizen is the Official Timepiece of both Walt Disney World and Disneyland with branded clocks in both theme parks.

For over 40 years, Citizen's Eco-Drive technology has served as the prime example of how the brand is dedicated to making the world and its environment a better place. A simple yet revolutionary concept, Eco-Drive harnesses the power of light from any natural or artificial light source and converts it into energy, eliminating the need for any battery replacement.

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