



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Michon Ellis, McDonald's  
michon.ellis@mcd.com  
630/623-4061

Kevin Dietz, Golin/Harris  
kdietz@golinharris.com  
312-287-6438

**FEMALE BASKETBALL PHEMON DUNKS HER WAY INTO HISTORY**

**McDonald's All American Candace Parker Becomes The First Woman Ever To Win Slam Dunk Competition During The POWERade Jam Fest**

**Oklahoma City, Okla. (March 29, 2004)** – McDonald's All American Candace Parker dunked her way into history tonight, becoming the first woman to win a major slam dunk contest. She took first place in the POWERade Jam Fest slam dunk competition at Carl Albert High School in Midwest City, Okla., and beat five male competitors in one of the premier McDonald's All American Game Week events.

Parker, a Naperville, Ill. native, threw down all three of her dunks in the final round, earning 223 points. The main highlight came when Parker covered her eyes with her arm as she slammed the ball through the hoop, bringing the crowd to its feet and earning 79 points (out of 80 total) from the eight judges in attendance (the lone holdout was former NFL superstar Barry Sanders who gave her a nine).

Parker, the 2004 McDonald's All American National Player of the Year, is the second McDonald's All American female player to compete in the slam dunk competition, joining 2003 team member Brittany Hunter (who currently attends Duke). Hunter failed on her attempts to dunk during the 2003 All American Game in Cleveland.

--more--

## **Candace Parker Wins Slam Dunk Contest/Page 2**

Widely regarded as the best female high school basketball player in the past decade, Parker first dunked in a game as a sophomore at Naperville Central High School. During her high school career, Parker led her team to back-to-back Illinois State Class 2A State Championships and was named the Naismith Prep Basketball National Player of the Year in 2003 and 2004. She will join Pat Summit's University of Tennessee Volunteers next fall.

### **POWERade Jam Fest Slam Dunk Final Round Results**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Final Round Points</b>	<b>Finish</b>
Candace Parker	223	1
Joe Crawford	148	2
J.R. Smith	77	3
Darius Washington, Jr.	73	4

The POWERade Jam Fest airs on ESPN Wednesday, March 31, at 8:00 p.m. EST, prior to the 2004 McDonald's All American High School Boys Basketball Game. The Game will be broadcast live on ESPN, beginning at 9 p.m. (EST).

The third annual McDonald's All American Girls Game also will be played at the Ford Center on Wednesday, March 31, and will precede the Boys Game with tip-off at 6:30 p.m. (EST). ESPN2 will air the game on Thursday, April 1, at 5 p.m. (EST).

A portion of the proceeds from the 2004 McDonald's All American Game benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Oklahoma.

McDonald's is the world's leading food service retailer with more than 30,000 local McDonald's restaurants serving 47 million customers each day in more than 100 countries. More than 70 percent of McDonald's restaurants around the world are owned and operated by independent, local businessmen and women.

# # #