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**NATION'S BEST COACHES SECLECTED TO LEAD THIRD ANNUAL  
McDONALD'S ALL AMERICAN® GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAME**

**OAK BROOK, Ill. (Feb. 4, 2004)** – McDonald's® today announced the head coaches who will lead the East and West squads in the third annual McDonald's All American Girls Game, which tips off on Wednesday, March 31, at Oklahoma City's Ford Center. Al Austin, head basketball coach for Ribault High School in Jacksonville, Florida, will coach the Girls East squad, while Cathy Self-Morgan, head coach at Duncanville High School in Duncanville, Texas, will lead the West squad. The Game is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. (EST) and will be broadcast on ESPN2 on Thursday, April 1 at 5 p.m. (EST).

As head coach at Ribault High School, Al Austin has amassed a record of 716 wins and only 59 losses over the past 25 years. His teams have produced eight state championships and have never lost more than five games in a single season. In addition, Ribault High has accumulated 22 district championships, 18 regional championships and has made 13 Florida Final Four appearances. Most recently, Austin led his team to an outstanding 31-1 record in route to their fifth straight Florida basketball state championship. Even more impressive, from January 2000 to January 2003, the Lady Trojans did not lose a single game, including two perfect seasons in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. Austin has been named Coach of the Year in the Gateway Conference 19 times, and for his efforts, was elected to the Florida High School Activities Association Hall of Fame in 2003. He is also a member of the Florida Athletic Coaches Association and Florida A&M University Hall of Fame.

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“The McDonald's All American Girls Game is extremely important because it allows women's high school talent to be showcased on a national level,” said Al Austin. “This game is a testament to the significance and value of women's high school athletics. I am proud and honored to be part of it.”

Cathy Self-Morgan also has made her mark on high school athletics, taking her teams to the Texas state playoff's twenty times. She has never had a losing record in her 25-year career in High School athletics and has an overall record of 654 wins and 164 losses. Last season as head coach at Duncanville High School, she led her team to an outstanding 39-1 record on their way to the UIL 5-A State Championship. Before arriving at Duncanville, Self-Morgan led the Westlake Chaparrals to the Class 5-A State Championship in 1995 and 1996 and the 4-A State Championship in 1993. Coach Self-Morgan was named the Coach of the Year in 1995, 1996, and 2003 by the Texas Sportswriters and was named Centex Coach of the Year an unprecedented 10 times from 1980 to 1996. *USA Today* has rated her teams in the Top 20 in the nation for the past 12 years.

“Being named coach for the McDonald's All American Game girls squad is a tremendous honor and I am truly humbled. It is going to be an unbelievable experience to work with these talented young women,” said Cathy Self-Morgan. “I'm excited to be a part of the history and tradition of this game, and to help promote girls basketball and Ronald McDonald House Charities®.”

Approximately 1,100 top girl high school basketball players from across the country were nominated to the McDonald's All American Team. A selection committee of prominent boys and girls basketball experts, chaired by Morgan Wootten, will select the final team members in late February. Legendary UCLA coach John Wooden, who has been involved in the McDonald's All American Game since its inception, serves as chairman of the Game and as an advisor to the selection committee. The final team members will be announced February 19.

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The players participating in the 2004 game will join an elite list of alumni that includes current and past NBA superstars Michael Jordan (retired), Magic Johnson (retired), Kevin Garnett (Minnesota Timberwolves), LeBron James (Cleveland Cavaliers), Carmelo Anthony (Denver Nuggets), as well as Chris Duhon (Duke) and Taliek Brown (UConn), Josh Childress (Stanford) and Shannon Brown (Michigan State) , and Women's NCAA stars Shanna Zolman (Tennessee), Ann Strother (UConn), and Seimone Augustus (LSU).

This year also celebrates the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Boys Game, which will be broadcast live on ESPN from the Ford Center at 9 p.m. (EST), following the Girls Game. The head coaches for the Boys Game will be Bob Flynn, head basketball coach Cardinal Gibbons School in Baltimore, Maryland and A.D. Burtschi, head basketball coach at Putnam City High School in Oklahoma City.

Although the Game is often referred to as the "best-known gathering of high school senior all-stars," the real purpose is to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities®. A portion of the proceeds from the 2004 Games will benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma. Previous beneficiaries of McDonald's All American Games include Sickle Cell Anemia Research, the United Negro College Fund and many other local children's charities. More than \$3 million has been raised since the game was first played in 1978.

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.

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