

## **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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## PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYER LAUNCHES YOUTH BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN VIRGINIA BEACH

Virginia Beach native, Devon Hall, has committed \$30,000 over three years to local charity, PlayOn, to drive youth basketball participation in the Hampton Roads region.

Hall began his career locally on <u>Cape Henry</u> Collegiate's courts, where he was named to the All-Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA) first-team all-state as a senior. Post-graduation, he headed to the <u>University of Virginia</u>, where he experienced a four-year athletic career. Selected by the <u>Oklahoma City Thunder</u> in the 2018 NBA draft, he has since moved to the European league and is presently playing for Germany's <u>Brose Bamberg</u>.

The athlete attributes sports to keeping him and his brother out of trouble while growing up. "We put so much time into our sports and education that we had no time for outside distractions. Basketball has given me a foundation for life as a whole. I've learned about work ethic, discipline, and also how to work with others in difficult situations," says Hall.

He adds, "It means everything to me to be able to give back to the very same community that has supported me throughout my life. When I was young, I sought out guidance, and I want to be able to help offer that to any kid that needs or wants the same."

Hall has made a generous multi-year commitment to PlayOn via his new scholarship program, *The Long Hall.* Funds will be used exclusively to make the area's **new** Wave Basketball Club accessible to local community members who cannot afford to participate. The Club's Director, Terrell Allen, was a high school teammate of Hall's. The two have worked closely for the past few months to curate a meaningful way to engage Virginia Beach's economically disadvantaged community.

"It's a blessing to be able to offer <u>The Long Hall Scholarship</u> to kids who may not have the means to play basketball. I'm forever grateful for Devon's contribution, which will position the organization to impact so many kids in our community. I've known Devon since our days at Cape Henry, and he's always not only been a great player on the court, but he is a great person that these kids will be able to look up to," says Allen.

PlayOn is dedicated to ensuring that every person, young or old, is afforded the opportunity to stay active and to receive all of the benefits of sports, fitness, and recreation. The organization

is based on a strong belief in the power of sport. It is driven by a strong desire to build active communities by providing adults and children access to quality, affordable, or free programs.

This local athlete turned pro is certainly in it for the proverbial "long haul" and will be offering mentoring services to youth athletes as well as running several camps and clinics in the area during his off-season.

Applications for the scholarship are rolling throughout the year, with three award periods following the season's schedules. Submissions are now being accepted for the Spring basketball season through April 1. For more information on the program's parameters and guidelines, interested and qualified applicants may visit <a href="https://www.playon365.org/long-hall-scholarship">www.playon365.org/long-hall-scholarship</a>.

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**ABOUT PLAY ON:** The diverse team at PlayOn believes in the power of sport and feels that everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of sports and recreation. The cost of participating in sports has continued to climb. The organization is dedicated to ensuring that every person, young or old, can stay active and receive all of the benefits of sports, fitness, and recreation. To date, the organization has given back more than \$1.4M in regional communities. To learn more about PlayOn and how to get involved with the cause, visit www.playon365.org.

ABOUT THE WAVE BASKETBALL CLUB: The Wave Basketball Club is Hampton Roads' new program designed to build character and develop a lifelong love for the game of basketball. Helping youth athletes grow both on and off the court, the organization and its participants rise together like a mighty wave, building dedication, commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The program is open to boys and girls of all skill levels in grades 4 -11 and focuses on player development on and off the court. To learn more about The Wave Basketball Club, visit www.thewavebasketballclub.com.