



Elks Hoop Shoot

News Release

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For immediate release

The World's Gonna Know His Name

CHICAGO—Luke Sides is going to the Hall of Fame! On April 21, the kid from Gaffney, South Carolina, won the 12- to 13-year-old division at the National Finals of the Elks Hoop Shoot free throw tournament. The finals took place at Gentile Arena on the Loyola University Chicago campus.

Luke sank 24 out of 25 shots (and then 10 out of 10 in a dramatic tie-breaking shoot-off) to defeat 11 other competitors from around the country. Like the other Finalists, he advanced through four rounds of competition to reach the National Finals. More than 300,000 8- to 13-year olds started down the Road to Chicago last fall, competing in boys and girls divisions in three age-groups. All six champions will have their names inscribed in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., and will visit the Hall as guests of the Elks.

During the Hoop Shoot weekend, the Finalists and their families toured Chicago by trolley, attended a special event at the Adler Planetarium, and engaged in community service, creating no-sew fleece blankets that will be distributed to V.A. hospitals in Chicago. The Elks have pledged to help the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs eliminate veteran homelessness.

Funded by the Elks National Foundation, the Hoop Shoot has been developing gritty kids for 46 years. The keynote speaker at this year's Awards Banquet was WNBA All-Star Tamika Catchings. Notable alumni from the Hoop Shoot program include college coaches Chris Mullin and Steve Alford, and WNBA players Kristi Toliver and Seimone Augustus.

The Elks organization is headquartered in Chicago, which will be hosting the Hoop Shoot National Finals again next year.

The complete results from this year's Hoop Shoot are available at elks.org/hoopshoot.

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