



PRESSRELEASE

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Wes Johnson to Represent Timberwolves in 2011 T-Mobile Rookie Challenge & Youth Jam

Game to be Played Feb. 18 as Part of NBA All-Star Weekend in Los Angeles

Minneapolis/St. Paul – Minnesota Timberwolves rookie forward Wes Johnson has been selected to play in the 2011 T-Mobile Rookie Challenge & Youth Jam on Friday, Feb. 18 at the STAPLES Center in Los Angeles.

"This is a well-deserved honor for Wes and our entire organization is proud that he'll be representing us in the Rookie-Sophomore game," Wolves head coach Kurt Rambis said. "Wes works extremely hard every day to become a better player. This announcement is a testament to the strides he's already taken this year and the bright future he has in this league."

Johnson, drafted fourth overall out of Syracuse in the 2010 NBA Draft, ranks fourth among rookies in scoring at 9.4 ppg, tied for fifth in assists at 2.0 apg, and second in three-point percentage at 38.9%. He's scored in double figures 19 times this season, including each of his last four outings. Johnson has hit at least one three-pointer in a game 34 times this season, second-most among rookies, and is on pace to join Stephon Marbury (107 three-pointers in 1996-97) as the only rookies in Wolves history to hit 100+ treys in a season. Johnson scored a career-high 24 points while tying the Wolves rookie record with six three-pointers in Minnesota's Dec. 27 win over New Orleans.

Joining Johnson on the Rookie team this year are Detroit's Greg Monroe, the Los Angeles Clippers' Eric Bledsoe and Blake Griffin, New Jersey's Derrick Favors, New York's Landry Fields, Sacramento's DeMarcus Cousins, San Antonio's Gary Neal and Washington's John Wall.

The participants in the T-Mobile Rookie Challenge and Youth Jam were selected by the NBA's assistant coaches, with each team submitting one ballot. The head coaches for the Rookie and Sophomore teams will be the lead assistants from the 2011 NBA All-Star Game coaching staffs. The T-Mobile Rookie Challenge & Youth Jam will be televised live nationally at 8 p.m. CST on TNT and also will be broadcast live on ESPN Radio.

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