



# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Timberwolves Forwards Al Jefferson and Kevin Love Named to 2010-2012 USA Basketball Men's National Team Program

**Minneapolis/St. Paul** – USA Basketball today announced that Minnesota Timberwolves forwards Al Jefferson and Kevin Love have been named to the 2010-2012 Men's National Team Program. Players from the National Team Program will be selected to represent the United States in international basketball competitions over the next three summers, including the 2010 FIBA World Championships and the 2012 Olympics. Along with Jefferson and Love, 25 other NBA stars have been named to the program.

In his sixth NBA season, Jefferson has established himself as one of the premier low-post players in the NBA. The 6-10 forward has averaged 20.8 points and 10.7 rebounds per game since joining the Wolves prior to the 2007-08 season and his 76 20-point/10-rebound games over that span rank fourth in the NBA (despite missing 32 games in 2008-09 with a torn ACL). In just two-plus seasons in Minnesota, Jefferson has already established franchise records for rebounds in a game (26 at Houston on 1/13/10), offensive rebounds in a game (12 vs. Phoenix on 11/26/08) and offensive rebounds in a season (308 in 2007-08).

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected to the 2010-2012 USA Basketball Men's National Team Program," Jefferson said. "There is no greater feeling than representing your country in your sport at the highest level. I'm extremely grateful to the members of the selection committee, and I'm looking forward to working with Coach K, the entire coaching staff and all of my teammates."

Love averaged 11.1 points and a rookie-best 9.1 rebounds per game during his first season in Minnesota, and has increased those numbers to 15.3 points and 11.6 rebounds per game this season. Love also led the NBA in offensive rebound percentage as a rookie (15.1%) and is on pace to do so again this season. The 6-10 forward has 51 point-rebound double-doubles in just 113 career games.

"I cannot describe what a privilege it is to represent the United States as a member of the Men's National Team Program," Love said. "I'm thankful to the selection committee for giving me this chance. Participating in the USA Basketball mini-camp this summer in Las Vegas was a tremendous experience and I can't wait to get back on the floor with my teammates and our coaching staff."

Returning to the USA National Team for 2010-12 are 2008 Olympic gold medalists Carmelo Anthony (Denver Nuggets); Carlos Boozer (Utah Jazz); Chris Bosh (Toronto Raptors); Kobe Bryant (Los Angeles Lakers); Dwight Howard (Orlando Magic); LeBron James (Cleveland Cavaliers); Chris Paul (New Orleans Hornets); Dwyane Wade (Miami Heat); and Deron Williams (Utah Jazz). Rounding out the list of Olympians on the national squad roster are 2004 Olympic bronze medalists Lamar Odom (Los Angeles Lakers) and Amar'e Stoudemire (Phoenix Suns).

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Completing the list of National Team players are LaMarcus Aldridge (Portland Trail Blazers); Chauncey Billups (Denver Nuggets); Kevin Durant (Oklahoma City Thunder); Rudy Gay (Memphis Grizzlies); Eric Gordon (Los Angeles Clippers); Danny Granger (Indiana Pacers); Andre Iguodala (Philadelphia 76ers); Al Jefferson (Minnesota Timberwolves); David Lee (New York Knicks); Brook Lopez (New Jersey Nets); Kevin Love (Minnesota Timberwolves); O.J. Mayo (Memphis Grizzlies); Kendrick Perkins (Boston Celtics); Derrick Rose (Chicago Bulls); Gerald Wallace (Charlotte Bobcats) and Russell Westbrook (Oklahoma City Thunder).

The Timberwolves are one of just six NBA teams, along with the Los Angeles Lakers (Bryant and Odom), Denver Nuggets (Anthony and Billups), Memphis Grizzlies (Gay and Mayo), Oklahoma City Thunder (Durant and Westbrook), and Utah Jazz (Boozer and Williams), to have multiple players on the roster.

Over the course of the next three summers, the USA Basketball Men's National Team will compete in the 2010 FIBA World Championship (Aug. 28-Sept. 12 in Turkey); if necessary the 2011 FIBA Americas Olympic Qualifying Tournament (dates and site TBD); and if the USA qualifies, the 2012 Summer Olympic Games (July 26-Aug. 12 in London, England).

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