



The list of NBA players and legends scheduled to appear at the 2013 NBA All-Star Jam Session, February 14-17th at the George R. Brown Convention Center has been released. More players will be added extending the total to be more than 150 players and legends that will appear at Jam Session.

Here are the list of dates and players listed. Thursday, February 14th: Carmelo Anthony-New York Knicks, George Gervin-San Antonio Spurs, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist-Charlotte Bobcats, Damian Lillard-Portland Trailblazers, and Gary Payton-Seattle Supersonics.

Friday, February 15th: James Harden-Houston Rockets, Dwight Howard-Los Angeles Lakers, Chris Paul-Los Angeles Clippers, Steve Novak-NBA, and Detlef Schrempf-Indiana Pacers.

Saturday, February 16th: Anthony Davis-New Orleans Hornets, Robert Horry-NBA Legend, Blake Griffin-Los Angeles Clippers, Kyrie Irving-Cleveland Cavaliers, David Lee-NBA.

Sunday, February 17th: Clyde Drexler-NBA Legend, Kenneth Faried-Denver Nuggets, Ron Harper-Chicago Bulls, Chandler Parsons-Houston Rockets, and Russell Westbrook-Oklahoma City Thunder.

Houston NBA All-Star News

Written by Yolande Y. Lezine

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*The BBVA Rising Stars Challenge will take place on Friday, February 15th at 8:00 p.m. This event is an All-Star game between two nine-man teams featuring the best rookies and second-year players. Players will be drafted prior to the game and coach by General Managers Charles Barkley and Shaquille O'Neal.

The sophomore players that will be participating include: Kyrie Irving and Tristan Thompson of the Cleveland Cavaliers, Kenneth Faried-Denver Nuggets, Brandon Knight-Detroit Pistons, Kawhi Leonard-San Antonio Spurs, Chandler Parsons-Houston Rockets, Klay Thompson-Golden State Warriors, Nikola Vucevic-Orlando Magic, and Kemba Walker of the Charlotte Bobcats.

The rookie players that will be participating include: Anthony Davis-New Orleans Hornets, Damian Lillard-Portland Trailblazers, Harrison Barnes-Golden State Warriors, Bradley Beal-Washington Wizards, Andre Drummond-Detroit Pistons, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist-Charlotte Bobcats, Alexey Shved-Minnesota Timberwolves, and Dion Walters and Tyler Zeller of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

*The Jeremy Lin Foundation will kick off All-Star Weekend with an exclusive launch event. The Making a Difference Project is the first initiative of The Jeremy Lin Foundation. Houston Rockets point guard Jeremy Lin will host this event on Thursday, February 14th, the unofficial start of NBA All-Star Weekend. Lin, many of his Rockets teammates, NBA superstars, and other athletes and celebrities will take over Minute Maid Park to participate in an interactive game night experience, playing basketball, air hockey, billiards, ping pong, video games and more.

The Making a Difference Project has identified three impactful Houston community organizations and will support them through fundraising efforts and public exposure to help them continue their valuable work. Each organization will receive a grant from the Jeremy Lin Foundation, and through a social media campaign, one organization will be selected as the primary beneficiary, earning visits and appearances by Jeremy for a year. Funds generated from the All-Star event will support the Foundation's mission to love and serve children and youth, by providing hope, empowerment and leadership development.

*The National Basketball Wives Association will host a celebrity packed gala bringing together NBA stars past and present for a night of fun and philanthropy to benefit Girls Incorporated of Greater Houston.

Behind the Bench's Black & White Gala will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a VIP Reception on Friday, February 15th at the Omni Houston Hotel located at 4 Riverway. The 2013 Gala Chairs are June Deadrick, Director of Texas State Relations for CenterPoint Energy, and Sandra Evans Short-President of Behind the Bench.

*Floy Johnson Promotions will host a Celebrity Basketball Game on Thursday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m. at Delmar Stadium Complex featuring the NFL All-Stars vs. And 1 All-Stars. Celebrity coaches include Hall of Famer Moses Malone and NBA Legend Gary Payton.

*Houston Rockets forward Chandler Parsons and Clutch the Bear provided a group of 25 school children from the Young Men's College Preparatory Academy and Young Women's College Preparatory Academy with a special preview of the types of family-friendly activities that will be featured during the 2013 NBA All-Star Jam Session. All the kids were given complimentary tickets to attend Jam Session.

*Tickets are now on sale for the NBA All-Star Celebrity Basketball game which will be played at the George R. Brown Convention Center on February 15th. The celebrity game is a highlight of the NBA All-Star Weekend. Past celebrities have included: Chris Tucker, Brian McKnight, Bow Wow, Nelly, Justin Bieber, Terrell Owens, Ice Cube and others. Tickets start at \$50 and include admission to the NBA All-Star Jam Session.

*The 2013 Beyond the Court Charity Luncheon will be held on Friday, February 15th. This event will honor the community works of selected honorees, all women who are intimately connected to the game of basketball: Jolinda Wade-Pastor, Author, Founder & Director of Barrier Breakdown Transformed Foundation and mother of Miami Heat guard Dwayne Wade; Keva Horry-Author, Executive Director of the Ashlyn Horry Foundation and former wife of 7-time NBA Champion Robert Horry; Robin Paul-Executive Director of the CP3 Foundation and mother of Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul; Judyette Jackson-Executive Director of Jack Foundation and mother of San Antonio Spurs forward Stephen Jackson, and Linda Shanklin-Executive Director of the Andre Iguodala Youth Foundation and mother of Denver Nuggets forward Andre Iguodala.

For more information regarding the event, please contact Renee Jones-Lee, Beyond the Court at 832-236-8015 or ysldiva@yahoo.com {jcomments on}

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