



# News Release

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\*This release is also available on USA Basketball's World Wide Web homepage - <http://www.usabasketball.com>.

## **2002 USA Men's World Championship Team Training To Begin August 17, U.S. Will Train In Oakland, San Francisco, Portland And Indianapolis**

### **U.S. Schedule Includes Exhibition Games Against China In Oakland And Germany In Portland**

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (May 8, 2002)** -- Opening its pre-World Championship training on Aug. 17 in Oakland, Calif., the 2002 USA Basketball Men's World Championship Team will spend 12 days leading up to the Aug. 29-Sept. 8 FIBA World Basketball Championship For Men training in Oakland; San Francisco, Calif.; Portland, Oregon, and Indianapolis, Indiana, and will play a pair of exhibition games against the Chinese World Championship Team in Oakland and the German World Championship Team in Portland.

"Our goal during training camp is to provide the USA Basketball World Championship team with a solid training camp experience which will include two games against opponents who will test our team and allow our players to gain additional international experience," said Stu Jackson, Chair of USA Basketball's Senior Men's National Team Committee. "Both China and Germany are world class opponents with tremendous talent with the likes of Wang Zhizhi and Yao Ming for China and Dirk Nowitzki of Germany."

Beginning its training on Saturday, Aug. 17 at the Golden State Warriors' practice facility, the USA will also train at the Warriors' site Aug. 18, and will train Aug. 19-21 at the University of San Francisco's War Memorial Gym. The United States will play an exhibition game

#### **2002 FIBA World Basketball Championship**

**Dates:** August 29-September 8, 2002

**Site:** Indianapolis, Indiana

**Venues:** Conseco Fieldhouse, RCA Dome

**Ticket Information:** [www.2002worldbasketball.com](http://www.2002worldbasketball.com) or call toll free 1-866-849-4922

**USA Team Training Schedule:** Aug. 17-18 in Oakland, Calif.; Aug. 19-21 in San Francisco, Calif.; Aug. 23-25 in Portland, Oregon; Aug. 26-28 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**USA Exhibition Games:** Aug. 22, 7 p.m., USA vs. China in Oakland, California (Tickets will be available via the internet at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com) beginning on Saturday, May 25).

Aug. 25, 7 p.m., USA vs. Germany in Portland, Oregon (Tickets are available at the Rose Quarter Ticket Office, at Ticketmaster locations, on line at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or [www.rosequarter.com](http://www.rosequarter.com), or by calling Ticketmaster at 503-224-4400).

**USA Head Coach:** George Karl (Milwaukee Bucks)

**USA Assistant Coaches:** Gregg Popovich (San Antonio Spurs), Mike Montgomery (Stanford University), Kelvin Sampson (University of Oklahoma).

**USA Team Members:** Ray Allen (Milwaukee Bucks); Antonio Davis (Toronto Raptors); Michael Finley (Dallas Mavericks); Jason Kidd (New Jersey Nets); Raef LaFrentz (Dallas Mavericks); Shawn Marion (Phoenix Suns); Andre Miller (Cleveland Cavaliers); Reggie Miller (Indiana Pacers); Jermaine O'Neal (Indiana Pacers); Paul Pierce (Boston Celtics). Two additional players will be announced at a later date.

**USA Team Alternates:** Jason Williams (Duke) and one additional player will be announced at a later date.

against China at The Arena in Oakland on Thursday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m. (local time). Tickets for the USA-China game will be available via the internet at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com) beginning on Saturday, May 25.

China, 10<sup>th</sup> place finishers in the 2000 Olympics, will be led by its "Walking Great Wall" which features 7'1" Dallas Mavericks star Wang Zhizhi, 6'11" Mengke Bateer, who joined the Denver Nuggets on Feb. 26 and played in their last 27 games, and 7'5" Yao Ming, who many predict will be among the top picks in this year's NBA draft.

USA Basketball Senior National teams featuring NBA players have faced China once before in an exhibition contest and three times in either World Championship or Olympic play. Meeting during the USA's pre-Olympic training on July 10, 1996, in Phoenix, Ariz., the U.S. defeated China 119-58 with 19,023 fans in attendance. Reggie Miller scored 16 points, Grant Hill accounted for 14 points and Scottie Pippen had 12 points in the win. U.S. Senior National Teams have also posted a 3-0 record against China in major international competitions. During the 1994 World Championships, the U.S. handed China a 132-77 preliminary round loss as Shaquille O'Neal scored 22 points and Reggie Miller and Dominique Wilkins each recorded 15 points. During preliminary play at the 1996 Olympics, behind Pippen's 24 points and Hill's 19 points the Americans posted a 133-70 victory. Most recently, in the opening preliminary round game of the 2000 Olympics, the U.S. fell behind 13-7 then rolled to a 119-72 win. Ray Allen led the USA charge with 21 points and Vince Carter was credited with 16 points.

Moving its training to Portland, the U.S. squad will conduct practices at the Portland Trail Blazers' practice facility on Aug. 23 and 24, and the Americans will play their second and final tune-up against the German World Championship squad on Sunday, Aug. 25 at the Rose Garden Arena. Germany is expected to be led by a pair of Dallas Mavericks, 7'0" All-Star Dirk Nowitzki and 7'6" center Shawn Bradley. Tipoff for the USA-Germany exhibition contest is slated for 7 p.m. (local time) and tickets are available at the Rose Quarter Ticket Office, at Ticketmaster locations, on line at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or [rosequarter.com](http://rosequarter.com) or by calling Ticketmaster at 503-224-4400.

USA Basketball Senior National teams featuring NBA players have faced Germany once in a pre-event exhibition game and once in Olympic action. Meeting on July 23, 1994, in Charlotte, N.C., during the USA's pre-World Championship training, the USA in front of a sold-out Charlotte Coliseum crowd of 23,698 defeated the German National Team 114-81. Joe Dumars scored a U.S. best 20 points, Reggie Miller added 19 more and Shaquille O'Neal tossed in 14 in the win. The USA Dream Team also recorded a 111-68 victory over Germany on July 29, 1992, in preliminary play at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Larry Bird paced the American offensive attack with 19 points, while Karl Malone scored 18 and Michael Jordan finished with 15 points.

The U.S. squad will complete its training for the World Championships with practices on Aug. 26, 27 and 28 in Indianapolis at IUPUI's Gymnasium.

## **2002 FIBA World Basketball Championship For Men**

The 2002 FIBA World Basketball Championship for Men will take place Aug. 29-Sept. 8 in Indianapolis. The United States men will compete in Group C along with Algeria, China and Germany. The USA open preliminary play in the 2002 World Championship on Aug. 29 against Algeria, then play Germany on Aug. 30 and the U.S. concludes its preliminary play facing China on Aug. 31. Second round play will be conducted Sept. 2-4, and quarterfinals play is slated for Sept. 5. The medal round semifinals action is on Sept. 7 and the gold and bronze medal games are slated to be played on Sept. 8.

Ten players of the 12-member USA Team have been selected and include: **Ray Allen** (Milwaukee Bucks), **Antonio Davis** (Toronto Raptors); **Michael Finley** (Dallas Mavericks); **Jason Kidd** (New Jersey Nets); **Raef LaFrentz** (Dallas Mavericks), **Shawn Marion** (Phoenix Suns), **Andre Miller** (Cleveland Cavaliers); **Reggie**

**Miller** (Indiana Pacers); **Jermaine O'Neal** (Indiana Pacers) and **Paul Pierce** (Boston Celtics). The final two USA players will be announced at a later date. Duke University All-American guard **Jason Williams**, and one other player to be named who played collegiately in 2001-02, will be alternates and train with the U.S. squad.

Milwaukee Bucks head mentor **George Karl** was announced on Oct. 9 head coach of USA Basketball's 2002 World Championship Team. San Antonio Spurs head coach **Gregg Popovich**, Stanford University (Calif.) head mentor **Mike Montgomery** and University of Oklahoma head coach **Kelvin Sampson** were named on Dec. 13 as assistant coaches of the USA Team.

The 14th FIBA World Basketball Championship for Men format features 16 teams. Four preliminary round groups consisting of four teams each play a round-robin competition within its preliminary pool between Aug. 29-31. The top three placing teams from each preliminary pool advance to form two second round pools consisting of six teams each. Each team's results against teams also advancing from its preliminary pool carries over to the second round standings and each team will play the other three teams in their second round pool whom they have not faced previously. The second round, which will be contested Sept. 2-4, will feature the top three finishing teams from Pool A and Pool B forming one second round pool, and the top three finishing teams from Pool C and Pool D forming the other second round pool. The top four teams from the two second round groups will then advance on to the medal round quarterfinals that are scheduled for Sept. 5, followed by the medal round semi-finals on Sept. 7 and the gold and bronze medal games will be played on Sunday, Sept. 8 in Conseco Fieldhouse.

The four preliminary round pools have been determined and the United States was placed in **Pool C** along with Algeria (Africa Zone #2 qualifier), China (Asia Zone #1 qualifier) and Germany (European Zone #4 qualifier). **Pool A** is comprised of Yugoslavia (European Zone #1 qualifier), Spain (European Zone #3 qualifier), Canada (Americas Zone #3 qualifier) and Angola (Africa Zone #1 qualifier). In **Pool B** is Brazil (Americas Zone #2 qualifier), Turkey (European Zone #2 qualifier), Puerto Rico (Americas Zone #4 qualifier) and Lebanon (Asia Zone #2 qualifier); **Pool D** includes Argentina (Americas Zone #1 qualifier), Russia (European Zone #5 qualifier), New Zealand (Oceania Zone #1 qualifier) and Venezuela (Americas Zone #5 qualifier) (To view the complete 2002 FIBA World Basketball Championship for Men schedule go to: [www.usabasketball.com/usab/seniormen/2002\\_mwc\\_schedule.html](http://www.usabasketball.com/usab/seniormen/2002_mwc_schedule.html)).

Tickets for all sessions of the 2002 FIBA World Basketball Championship for Men can be purchased by phoning toll free 800-NBA-TIX or 866-849-4922, or over the Internet at [www.2002worldbasketball.com](http://www.2002worldbasketball.com) or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

### **USA History In FIBA World Championships**

Held every four years, the 16-nation FIBA World Basketball Championship for Men is being held in the United States for the first time in the competition's history which dates back to 1950.

USA teams own a very successful 91-23 all-time record (.798 winning percentage) in World Championship play and have won three gold (1994, 1986 and 1954), three silver (1982, 1959, 1950) and three bronze (1998, 1990, 1974) medals in the 13 previous FIBA World Championships.

The USA finished 7-2 and in possession of the bronze medal in the 1998 World Championship in Greece after fielding a team comprised of collegians and professional players who were either competing overseas or in the Continental Basketball Association. The United States in 1994, featuring a squad of NBA stars, won the gold in Toronto, Canada, finishing a perfect 8-0.

## 2002 USA Basketball Men's World Championship Team

NAME	POS	HGT	WGT	DOB	PRO TEAM / COLLEGE
Ray Allen	G	6-5	205	07/20/75	Milwaukee Bucks / Connecticut '96
Antonio Davis	C	6-9	230	10/31/68	Toronto Raptors / Texas-El Paso '90
Michael Finley	G	6-7	215	03/06/73	Dallas Mavericks / Wisconsin '95
Jason Kidd	G	6-4	212	03/23/73	New Jersey Nets / California '94
Raef LaFrentz	F/C	6-11	240	05/29/76	Dallas Mavericks / Kansas '98
Shawn Marion	F	6-7	215	05/07/78	Phoenix Suns / UNLV '99
Andre Miller	G	6-2	200	03/19/76	Cleveland Cavaliers / Utah '99
Reggie Miller	G	6-7	195	09/24/65	Indiana Pacers / UCLA '87
Jermaine O'Neal	C/F	6-11	242	10/13/78	Indiana Pacers / Eau Claire High School (SC) '96
Paul Pierce	F	6-6	230	10/13/77	Boston Celtics / Kansas '98

\*TBD

\*TBD

### ALTERNATES

Jason Williams      G      6-2      195      09/10/81      Duke '02

\*TBD

**Head Coach:** George Karl, Milwaukee Bucks

**Assistant Coach:** Gregg Popovich, San Antonio Spurs

**Assistant Coach:** Mike Montgomery, Stanford University (Calif.)

**Assistant Coach:** Kelvin Sampson, University of Oklahoma

*\* Two additional players and one more alternate will be added to the USA team roster and announced at a later date*

## 2002 USA Basketball Men's World Championship Team Training Schedule

<b>August 17-22</b>	<b>USA Team Training / Exhibition Games - Oakland, California</b>
August 17, 18	Training at the Golden State Warriors Practice Facility
August 19, 20, 21	Training at the University of San Francisco War Memorial Gym
August 22 (7:00 p.m.)	USA vs. China at The Arena in Oakland, Oakland, California
<b>August 23-25</b>	<b>USA Team Training / Exhibition Game - Portland, Oregon</b>
August 23, 24,	Training at the Portland Trail Blazer Practice Facility
August 25 (7:00 p.m.)	USA vs. Germany at the Rose Garden Arena, Portland, Oregon
<b>August 26-28</b>	<b>USA Team Training - Indianapolis, Indiana</b>
August 26-28	Training at IUPUI Gymnasium
<b>August 29-September 8</b>	<b>2002 FIBA World Basketball Championship for Men - Indianapolis, Indiana</b>
August 29-31	Preliminary Round Play at The RCA Dome and Conseco Fieldhouse
August 29	USA - Algeria (8:00 p.m. @ RCA Dome)
August 30	USA - Germany (7:00 p.m. @ RCA Dome)
August 31	USA - China (8:00 p.m. @ RCA Dome)
September 2-4	Second Round Play at The RCA Dome and Conseco Fieldhouse
September 2	Second Round / USA - TBD (8 p.m. @ Conseco Fieldhouse)
September 3	Second Round / USA - TBD (8 p.m. @ Conseco Fieldhouse)
September 4	Second Round / USA - TBD (7 p.m. @ Conseco Fieldhouse)
September 5	Quarterfinals Play at The RCA Dome and Conseco Fieldhouse (5:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.)
September 7	Semifinals Play at Conseco Fieldhouse (1:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.)
September 8	Bronze/Gold Medal Games at Conseco Fieldhouse (12:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.)

**NOTE:** All times listed are tentative and local times.

## SCOUTING CHINA

China is quickly closing the gap between itself and the elite international powers and its outlook for the 2002 World Championship is bright. NBA fans received their first glimpse of China's basketball future with the arrival in Dallas of 7-1 Wang Zhizhi in April 2001. A second Chinese player joined the NBA in 2002 when 6-11 Mengke Bateer joined the Denver Nuggets on Feb 26. and played in Denver's last 27 games. A third Chinese player soon to make his home in the NBA is 7-5 Yao Ming, a player many predict will be among the top picks in this year's NBA draft.

The trio of Wang, Mengke and Yao are know in Asia as China's "Great Walking Wall" and China's hopes for a top eight finish in the '02 World Championship will center around their play. China went 2-4 and finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place at the 2000 Olympics after earning an eighth place finish in the 1996 Olympic Games. Wang led China at the 2000 Summer Games averaging 13.5 points and 5.0 rebounds, while Yao added 10.5 points, 6.0 rebounds and 2.2 blocked shots a game.

In the 2002 China Basketball League (CBL) Championship, Yao, who is just 21-years-old, recorded 44 points, 21 rebounds and seven blocks in game #4 to lead the Shanghai Sharks to a 123-122 triumph over the Bayi Rockets and to the 2002 CBL title. In the best-of-five series which the Sharks won 3-1, Yao averaged 41.3 ppg., 21 rpg. and 4.3 blocks a game.

At the 2001 Asian Championship for Men, China finished 8-0 to win the Asian title after defeating Lebanon 93-67 in the championship game. It was China's second consecutive victory in the Asian Championships and the 12th in 14 appearances. China was led to the Asian title by its "Walking Great Wall." Wang averaged a team high 13.8 ppg. and grabbed 5.4 rpg., Yao scored 13.4 ppg. and recorded team bests of 10.1 rpg. and 2.8 blocked shots a game, while Mengke scored 9.0 ppg. and snagged 6.8 rpg. China also received support from a trio of forwards, 6-6 Weidong Hu, 11.9 ppg; 6-5 Nan Li, 11.9 and 3.5 rpg., and 6-7 Xiaobin Gong, 9.8 ppg.

China also earned a silver medal at the 2001 World University Games Team which were held in Beijing. Led by Wang, Mengke and Yao, China defeated a USA World University Games Team comprised of top collegians, 83-82. Fighting back from an 11-point deficit late in the game, the U.S. missed one shot with less than 10 seconds to go and Yao blocked another as time expired as China defeated the American collegians 83-82 in the medal semifinal game. The loss ended the USA's 46-game winning streak at the World University Games. Wang Jinsong led China with 18 points, Wang scored 16 points and had a game high 11 rebounds, Yao had 12 points, nine rebounds and five blocked shots, and Mengke and Cheng Zhang each scored 11 points. For the Tournament. Wang finished as the leading overall scorer (22.6 ppg.) and Yao was 24<sup>th</sup> (15.6 ppg.), while Yao led all players in rebounds (12.4 rpg.), Wang was 14<sup>th</sup> (7.3 rpg.) and Bateer ranked 16<sup>th</sup> (6.9 rpg.). Yao (3.57 bpg.) and Wang (1.43 bpg.) also ranked first and fourth, respectively, for blocked shots as well.

### USA-China History

USA Basketball Senior National teams featuring NBA players have faced China once before in an exhibition contest and three times in either World Championship or Olympic play. Meeting on July 10, 1996, in Phoenix, Ariz., during the USA's pre-Olympic training, the U.S. defeated China 119-58 with 19,023 fans in attendance. Reggie Miller scored 16 points, Grant Hill accounted for 14 points and Scottie Pippen had 12 points. U.S. Senior National Teams have also posted a 3-0 record against China in major international competitions. During the 1994 World Championship, the U.S. handed China a 132-77 preliminary round loss as Shaquille O'Neal scored 22 points and Reggie Miller and Dominique Wilkins each had 15 points. During preliminary play at the 1996 Olympics, behind Pippen's 24 points and Hills 19 points the Americans posted a 133-70 victory. Most recently, in the opening preliminary round game of the 2000 Olympics, the U.S. fell behind 13-7 then rolled to a 119-72 win. Ray Allen led the USA charge with 21 points and Vince Carter was credited with 16 points.

### USA vs. China (14-1)

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82- 83	2001	World University Games
119- 72	2000	Olympic Games
119- 59	1999	Junior World Championship
91- 76	1998	Goodwill Games
107- 39	1997	FIBA 22 & Under World Championship
133- 70	1996	Olympic Games
119-58	1996	Pre-Olympics Exhibition Game
132- 77	1994	FIBA World Championship
99- 80	1994	Goodwill Games
129- 91	1993	World University Games
108- 57	1988	Olympic Games
100- 50	1987	Junior World Championship
107- 81	1986	FIBA World Championship
97- 49	1984	Olympic Games
96- 73	1982	FIBA World Championship

## SCOUTING GERMANY

Germany last appeared in a major FIBA competition in 1994 at the World Championships in Toronto and earned a 12<sup>th</sup> place finish despite compiling a 5-3 record. In the 1992 Olympics, Germany claimed a seventh place finish behind the play of its great guard Detlef Schrempf, who spent the last year (1999-2000) of his 15-year NBA career in Portland.

Germany's quest in 2002 for a World Championship medal now rests in the hands of another NBA standout, Dallas Maverick and NBA All-Star Dirk Nowitzki. The 6-11 forward averaged during the 2001-02 NBA season a league eighth best 24.3 ppg., while adding 9.9 rebounds a game which also ranked eighth best in the NBA. Also an excellent shooter, he hit 47.7 percent of his shots from the field and drilled 39.7 percent of his 3-point attempts (139-350 3pt FGs).

At the 2001 European Championships, Nowitzki averaged a tournament high 28.7 points a game and ranked third for rebounds grabbing 9.1 a game as Germany finished fourth to earn one of Europe's five World Championship qualifying berths. In the European Championships, Germany lost a heartbreaking 79-78 overtime decision to host Turkey in the semifinals as Nowitzki finished with 22 points and 10 rebounds. In the bronze medal game, Spain handed Germany a 99-90 setback despite Nowitzki pouring in 43 points (12-18 FGs, 5-7 3pt FGs, 14-15 FTs) and adding 15 rebounds.

While Nowitzki is Germany's leading man without question, Germany has a solid support group that includes 6-8 forward Ademola Okulaja, 7-0 Patrick Femerling, 6-6 guard Marco Pesic, 6-0 guard Mithat Demirel and 7-6 NBA Dallas Mavericks center Shawn Bradley. Okulaja in the '02 European Championships averaged team second bests of 13.3 ppg. and 8.1 rpg. Femerling added 11.0 ppg. and 5.6 rpg., while Pesic scored 10.3 ppg. Bradley, who averaged 4.4 ppg., 3.3 rpg. and 1.21 blocked shots a game for the Mavs in 2001-02, scored 4.6 ppg. and recorded 3.6 rpg. for Germany in the European Championships.

In the 2001 World University Games in Beijing, China, the USA and Germany squared off in the bronze medal game and the Americans held off Germany for an 80-78 victory. With 6:34 remaining in the contest the United States held an 11-point, 76-65, lead. However, Germany chipped away and with 3:07 left the U.S. lead had been trimmed to one, 76-75. The U.S. made a pair of free throws with 12.2 seconds to go to take a three-point lead, 80-77, and with two tenths of a second left on the clock, Germany's 5-11 guard Pascal Roller was sent to the line for two free throws. After making his first, Roller intentionally missed the second and Germany came up with the rebound, but time expired before a shot could be attempted giving the U.S. the bronze medal and the 80-78 victory. Lars Grubler, a 6-11 center, led Germany with 21 points and 10 rebounds, 6-5 Artur Kolodziejski finished with 19 points and Roller had 15 points. Roller finished the 2001 World University Games ranked as the competition's ninth leading scorer at 19.6 ppg. while grabbing 6.3 rpg., and Grubler posted averages of 14.6 ppg. and a competition sixth best 8.4 rpg.

### USA - Germany History

USA Basketball Senior National teams featuring NBA players have faced Germany once in a pre-event exhibition game and once in Olympic action. Meeting in Charlotte, N.C. during the USA's pre-World Championship training, the USA on July 23 in front of a sold-out Charlotte Coliseum crowd of 23,698 defeated the German National Team 114-81. Joe Dumars scored a U.S. best 20 points, Reggie Miller added 19 more and Shaquille O'Neal tossed in 14 in the win. The USA Dream Team also recorded a 111-68 victory over Germany on July 29, 1992, in preliminary play at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Larry Bird paced the American offensive attack with 19 points, Karl Malone scored 18 and Michael Jordan finished with 15 points.

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#### USA vs. Germany (3-0)

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80- 78	2001	World University Games
114-81	1994	Pre-World Championship Exhibition Game
111- 68	1992	Olympic Games