**The Hoop Shoot is in the Hall**

Michael Jordan. Lisa Leslie. Beckett Jilka. Ainsley Weaver.

Jordan and Leslie combined to score more than 38,000 points across 27 seasons in the NBA and WNBA. Beckett and Ainsley are still years away from high school.

However, they *all* have their names in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

As 2024 Elks Hoop Shoot National Champions and winners of the Getty Powell Award, Beckett and Ainsley are featured, along with the other Hoop Shoot National Champions, in a digital display. In October, the young Hoop Shoot champions and their parents were flown to Springfield, Mass., by the Elks National Foundation so they could see their names among the greats.

“We were able to see Ainsley’s name and picture in the Elks Hoop Shoot digital display,” says Ainsley’s mom, Tara. “It was very cool!”

While reading stories from the past and learning about players who graced the court long before they were born, Beckett and Ainsley didn’t have to imagine what these basketball legends must have been like—they got to meet some of them firsthand.

The program affords all six National Champions an opportunity to go to the Hall of Fame, but winning the Getty Powell Award comes with an exclusive invitation to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony!

“Beckett enjoyed the Enshrinement Ceremony,” says Beckett’s mom, Traci Jilka. “There were so many awesome speeches and big-name people in attendance. They gave very good motivation and advice!”

Among those inducted was Seimone Augustus, a three-time Elks Hoop Shoot National Finalist, who competed in 1994, 1995 and 1996. Before she took the stage to give her speech, Augustus congratulated Ainsley on becoming an Elks Hoop Shoot National Champion—something even Augustus, an eight-time WNBA all-star and three-time Olympic gold medalist, was never able to accomplish.

In this whirlwind of a weekend, Beckett and Ainsley created incredible memories for themselves and their families.

“It was a weekend we will never forget,” says Traci. “We thank the Elks so much for the opportunity!”

The memories aren’t the only long-lasting thing to come from their Hoop Shoot experience, though. Beckett and Ainsley learned the importance of hard work, developed the courage to try, and performed in the face of adversity. Through it all, they unleashed their grit—and have no plans of looking back.

“I’m so amazed at the difference in Ainsley over this past year,” says Tara. “She’s still the same sweet girl, but she’s so much more outgoing and self-assured. Her experiences with the Hoop Shoot have been life-changing.”

*The Elks have been unleashing gritty kids through the Hoop Shoot program for more than 50 years. For 2024-25, the Elks National Foundation allocated more than $1.5 million to fund the program. For videos, news from the court, and more information about the Hoop Shoot, visit* ***elks.org/hoopshoot***.