Clark receives invite to 2009 USA Basketball Trials

Becomes second Blue Raider in the last three years to head to Colorado for tryouts

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COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - Middle Tennessee junior forward Alysha Clark has been invited by USA Basketball and the women's Junior National Team Committee to participate in the upcoming National Team Trials at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The trials will be held May 14-17. Two teams will be selected following the conclusion of the trials, the 2009 FIBA U-19 World Championship Team and the 2009 World University Games Team.

Clark, a Mt. Juliet, Tenn., native who led the nation in scoring with 27.5 ppg, is the second Blue Raider in the last three years to be invited following Amber Holt in 2007. Clark is the fourth overall Lady Raider in program history to receive an invite to an U.S. National Team training center event after Jennifer McFall and Cyndi Lindley-Allen participated in the trials for the 1983 Pan American Games.

Based on her age, Clark is only eligible for the 2009 World University Games Team, which includes eligible athletes who are United States citizens currently enrolled in a college or university and have remaining collegiate eligibility. The head coach of the 2009 World University Games Team is Charli Turner Thorne from Arizona State, assisted by Suzy Merchant from Michigan State and Julie Rousseau from Pepperdine.

The training and competition schedule includes: May 14-17, World University Games Team Trials (Colorado Springs, Colo.); June 18-25, Training Camp (Colorado Springs, Colo.); June 26-30, Training/scrimmages (Belgrade, Serbia); July 1-11, World University Games (Belgrade, Serbia); and July 12, Return to United States.

Carol Callan, Women's National Team Director, issued the formal invitation to Clark. The USA Basketball women's Junior National Team Committee is responsible for all trials and team selections. The Committee will select finalists to come to training camp from which the 12-member team will be selected. Athletes competing in the trials will be evaluated by the women's Junior National Team Committee based on playing ability, versatility, previous USA Basketball experience and success, coachability, size, position, current playing status and success, availability, attitude and future potential. The trails will feature drills, position work and scrimmages. At the Committee's discretion, athletes may be cut following a minimum of two scrimmage opportunities.

For the trials, USA Basketball provides round-trip coach airline transportation, local ground transportation, meals and lodging at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. Athletes are scheduled to arrive in Colorado Springs mid-afternoon May 14 and depart early afternoon May 17.

USA Basketball is the national governing body for the sport in the United States. Any team representing the United States in international basketball competitions (e.g., Olympic Games and World Championships) is selected, trained and supported by USA Basketball.

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