



**A New Generation of Basketball Players will play at the U21 World Championship**  
*Nine countries will compete at Gallaudet University*

Montreal, June 28th, 2018 - The Canadian Deaf Sports Association (CDSA) is happy to send the U21 National Basketball team at the U21 World Deaf Basketball Championship from July 7th to 14th at Gallaudet University in Washington, U.S. Gallaudet University is the only university in the world for Deaf and hard of hearing.

Nine new players form the new core of Deaf Basketball Canada and it will be their first international participation in Washington. These players whose average age is 17 were recruited at the 2018 Canada Deaf Games. After more than 10 years with the same core of players, Deaf Basketball Canada is beginning a new development phase for the next 10 years.

The national team with 11 players will be supervised by coaches Jeff Miller (Ontario) and Devin Aikin (B.C) as well as led by two veterans in Kareem Al-Akhras (Ontario) and Benjamin Idemudia (B.C). Aged 21 years old, Al-Akhras and Idemudia will lead the new nine players with their strong international experience.

"It's exciting for CDSA and the new generation. The development team will learn a lot from this tournament. The future looks promising with the next international competitions, including the U.S. Deaf Basketball Championship in 2019 in Ohio and qualifications for the 2020 Pan American Games," said Alain Turpin, CDSA Executive Director.

After a promising selection camp held in Vancouver in May, the Canadian team is ready to leave for Washington on July 4th. The team will train on July 5th and 6th before beginning the tournament on July 7th.

**About the CDSA:** The CDSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of high-performance Deaf and hard of hearing athletes. Through direct financial support, the CDSA helps athletes participate in international sport events sanctioned by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf and the Pan American Sports Committee for the Deaf.

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