SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Buzzer sounds on scholarship selection camp

2026 cohort to be announced in May

By CHEN YE in Hangzhou
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The most recent Joe Tsai Basketball Scholarship Camp concluded in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on Sunday, after putting total of 56 young players, 17 of whom were girls, through their paces in a series of physical tests, technical drills and team scrimmages.

The scholarship, launched in 2021 with the aim of nurturing the next generation of Chinese basketball talent, while promoting youth sports and cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world, marks its fifth anniversary this year.

The recently concluded camp will determine which of the aspirants will be this milestone year's beneficiaries of the scholarship, through which eligible teenagers with a passion for basketball are sent to boarding schools in the United States and are provided comprehensive financial support — including tuition and boarding — throughout their high school education.

The scholarship, according to basketball professionals, enables aspiring youths to receive high-level training, encouraging them to step outside their comfort zones while enhancing their competitiveness and self-discipline.

During the camp's closing ceremony, Alibaba chairman and scholarship founder Tsai expressed gratitude to all parties involved.

"First of all, I want to thank the Chinese Basketball Association for its consistent support, which has always been our strongest backer.

"Most importantly, I want to acknowledge the sacrifices made by parents. Sending children of such a young age overseas must be heart-breaking, and this certainly requires sacrifice. But, I can confidently assure you, please don't worry. Your children have the spirit and genetics of athletes, and they will adapt well.

"Whether in basketball, academics or daily life, they will perform excellently, so there is no need for concern."

He also shared his hopes for the young players and the future of the program: "Basketball should not only teach you how to win, but more importantly, how to confront difficulties, take responsibility, trust your teammates and earn their trust.

"This trust will accompany you in the future. After this training camp ... I hope you will carry what you have learned into every arena and every stage of life ahead."

The camp was led by the former head coach of China's men's national basketball team Wang Fei, who was joined by Olympic medalist and China Basketball Hall of Famer Liu Qing and a coaching team from the Gillion Basketball Academy in the US.

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>
> **Song Xiaobo,** China Basketball Hall of Fame inductee

Together, they delivered intensive sessions covering foundational fitness, specialized techniques and offensive–defensive systems, providing participants with an international-standard basketball training experience.

Another China Basketball Hall of Fame inductee, Song Xiaobo, who has served as a judge for the scholarship for five consecutive editions, said: "I believe Joe Tsai's philosophy is truly admirable. These children may not necessarily become professional athletes in the future, nor is there a requirement for them to play in the NBA. Only a small number of players eventually become professionals, but opening one's eyes to the world is what matters most."

Regarding selection criteria, she explained: "We have specific metrics across various areas, including technical performance and physical testing, but the key thing is that the children must work hard, love the game and be willing to invest in themselves."

Initiated by Tsai and officially supported by the Chinese Basketball Association, the scholarship operates independently and has, to date, selected and cultivated 28 outstanding young players, two of whom have advanced to NCAA Division I schools, and two who entered professional basketball through the CBA draft.

Among the four current student cohorts, seven have received NCAA basketball scholarship offers, and eight have been selected for China's national youth teams and various training camps.

Application for the 2026 Scholarship ran from Aug 11 through Oct 19. The list of scholarship recipients for the 2026 cohort is expected to be announced in May 2026, and they will embark on their journey to the US later in the year.

2026 Joe Tsai Basketball Scholarship aspirants are put through their paces at a selection camp in Hangzhou last weekend. Former Team China coach Wang Fei and a team from Gillion Basketball Academy in the US led the camp. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Left: Of the 56 scholarship candidates, 17 were girls. **Right:** The young hopefuls were put through a series of physical tests, technical drills and team scrimmages. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

BASKETBALL

No 1 draft pick's positivity unwavering, despite Mavs' dire start

MIAMI — Cooper Flagg left college after a year. His education, however, continues.

The No 1 pick in this year's NBA draft has been a part of more losses with the Dallas Mavericks this season than he experienced in his last four years of basketball combined. Duke lost four times last season, Florida's Montverde Academy lost a total of three games in 2022-23 and 2023-24, and Maine's Nokomis Regional lost one in 2021-22.

Championship contending has been an annual event for Flagg. Duke went to the Final Four in his lone season. Montverde was considered the best high school team in the country in his final year there. Nokomis won a state title with Flagg leading the way.

The Mavericks, however, are next-to-last in the Western Conference right now at 5-14. And, after the latest of those losses in Miami on Monday night, Flagg was asked how he's handling it all emotionally.

"I'm just trying to keep my people close to me, my family, obviously," Flagg said. "But, I think the other part is just being optimistic, it's a long season. We've had a lot of guys step up, and some deal with a lot of injuries. There's been a lot of positives that we've been able to take from some of these games as well. So, I think that's something, just being optimistic, knowing we have a lot of games going forward and just sticking with it and being positive."

Flagg is averaging 15.9 points per game, second-best among rookies; his former Duke teammate Kon Knueppel is averaging 19.4 for Charlotte. As of Tuesday, Flagg had played more minutes than anyone else in the rookie class, and even in a loss he'd more than impressed the Heat by how he wanted the ball in the final minutes with the outcome still undecided.

"He's not scared of the moment," Miami center Bam Adebayo said. "A lot of guys would move to the corner when there's two minutes left in a close ball game ... he was going to get the ball. He's growing up faster than people think. By the end of the season, I feel like he's going to be one of them ones that's hard to guard because he's going through those moments now."

Adebayo has seen the potential before. He was on the 2024 Olympic team, a squad that watched Flagg — then a 17-year-old on a select team made up of players brought to Las Vegas to practice with and against the Paris-bound national team — dominate a scrimmage against the team that would go on to win the gold medal in France.

"I think probably more than anything, I've always just been impressed with his competitive spirit, but also how competitively mature he is for his age," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He's not even 19 yet. Is that correct? I mean, that's crazy."

Flagg shot 37 percent in his first six NBA games; he's up to 45 percent on the season now. He's reached double figures in scoring in all but one of his pro games to this point. And he's had some statistical success on a team that is missing Kyrie Irving (ACL recovery) and Anthony Davis (calf strain), plus dealt with the fallout after the firing of Nico Harrison — the general manager who traded Luka Doncic away.

The losses are not fun, but there is a bit of a silver lining, Mavs coach Jason Kidd said.

"I think for himself, and for the team, to go through this tough time of losing close games is only going to make us better as we go forward," Kidd said. "Especially for Cooper — because he's getting to see a lot of different close games and how to handle different situations. So, this is good."

In other words, Flagg is learning. College is over, but class is still very much in session.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA

NOTICE OF CREDITORS' MEETING IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS INTERIM ORDER APPLICATION NO. 830 OF 2025
Re : LO CHUNG YI

NOTICE is hereby given that the Creditors' Meeting summoned by interim order made on 14th November 2025 to consider the proposal for a voluntary arrangement of the above-named debtor will be held at the office of Solar Wong & Co., Solicitors of Unit 1019-20, 10/F, Tower B, New Mandarin Plaza, No.14 Science Museum Road, East Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon on 12th December 2025 (Friday) at 11:00 a.m..

Creditors can obtain a copy of (i) the Debtor's proposal, (ii) the summary of statement of affairs, (iii) the nominee's reports and comments on the proposal, (iv) a form of proxy, (v) a notice of claim form and (vi) the important notes to the notice from the office of Solar Wong & Co., Solicitors of Unit 1019-20, 10/F, Tower B, New Mandarin Plaza, No.14 Science Museum Road, East Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.

Dated this 27th day of November 2025.

Lau Wai Lun Ronald
Nominee

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