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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GUELPH NIGHTHAWKS REVEAL SELECTIONS FROM INAUGURAL  
CANADIAN ELITE BASKETBALL LEAGUE 2019 ENTRY DRAFT**

Hamilton, ON – At a live event conducted at the Art Gallery of Hamilton and broadcast on CEBL.tv the Canadian Elite Basketball League (CEBL) revealed the selections from its inaugural 2019 Entry Draft. The Guelph Nighthawks held the third pick in the first round where Head Coach & GM Tarry Upshaw proudly selected with the club's first pick Connor Wood, a hometown player from Guelph, 5x CIS Champion with Carleton University, former CIS Player of the Year and current starting Guard for Uni Basket Paderborn of the German ProA Basketball Bundesliga.

Two picks prior to the selection of Connor Wood the Fraser Valley Bandits made history by selecting Joel Friesen from the University of Alberta as the first player to be drafted into the CEBL.

The inaugural CEBL Entry Draft included the selection of thirteen players by each team, including two players directly from USport programs. With a CEBL mandate that all rosters are comprised of 70 percent Canadian players the Nighthawks focused on selecting Canadian talent, deciding to wait until Free Agency opens on March 24<sup>th</sup> to sign its international players.

Other highlights of the Nighthawks draft included the selection of three brothers from Burlington Ontario, Chadrack, Meshack and Abednego Lufile. However, draft night was not all about local talent. The club was able to select former University of Texas standout Myck Kabongo, University of Michigan alum Jevohn Shepherd and Arkansas Razorback Marvell Waithe.

"We are a big team, filled with top-end Canadian talent that will put up a tough fight night in and night out," said Coach Tarry Upshaw. "We'll be strong on the glass and tough in the paint, but also have players like Myck that can push the pace, and Connor who can step outside and drain shots from behind the arc."

GUELPH NIGHTHAWKS OF THE CANADIAN ELITE BASKETBALL LEAGUE

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“Tarry’s staff have put in some incredible work over the last two months to scout and prepare for the CEBL draft,” said Cameron Kusch, President of the Guelph Nighthawks. “Tarry was brought in partly because of his ties to the Canadian basketball landscape. I had high hopes for the level of talent that he’d be able to secure in Guelph, and he’s blown those expectations out of the water. The Nighthawks will be a fun, exciting and competitive team right from the outset of our inaugural season on May 9<sup>th</sup>.”

The Guelph Nighthawks thirteen selections from the 2019 Entry Draft were as follows:

<u>Rd.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>College</u>
1	Connor Wood	6’4”	198 lbs.	Guard	Carleton
2	Jevohn Shepherd	6’5”	215 lbs.	G/F	Michigan
3	Marvin Binney	6’3”	195 lbs.	Guard	St. Mary’s (TX)
4	Emanuel Shepherd	6’8”	200 lbs.	Forward	Southern
5	Chris Johnson	6’5”	205 lbs.	G/F	St. Bonaventure
6	Abednego Lufile	6’7”	240 lbs.	Forward	Arkansas Tech
7	Meshack Lufile	6’8”	240 lbs.	Forward	Cape Breton
8	Marvell Waithe	6’9”	215 lbs.	Forward	Arkansas
9	Myck Kabongo	6’2”	180 lbs.	Guard	Texas
10	Jamal Reynolds	6’4”	175 lbs.	Guard	Canisius
11	Chadrack Lufile	6’9”	265 lbs.	Forward	Wichita State
12	*Malcolm Glanville	6’3”		Guard	Guelph
13	*Myles Charvis	6’0”		Guard	Ryerson

\* Denotes USport Developmental Player

The Guelph Nighthawks 2019 training camp opens April 26<sup>th</sup> at the University of Guelph. The club will play their inaugural game in Abbotsford against the Fraser Valley Bandits on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and their home opener on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Sleeman Centre against the Saskatchewan Rattlers.

For more information on the Guelph Nighthawks and available ticket packages please visit [www.thenighthawks.ca/tickets](http://www.thenighthawks.ca/tickets) or call (548) 988-HAWK.

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## About the Guelph Nighthawks CEBL Entry Draft Selections:

### **Connor Wood**

POSITION: Guard

HEIGHT: 6'4"

WEIGHT: 198 lbs.

BIRTHDATE: May 29, 1993

HOMETOWN: Guelph, ON

COLLEGE: Carleton University (2017)

- Native to Guelph, Ontario
- Graduated from Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School
- 5x CIS Champion (2013-2017)
- 2017 CIS Player of the Year
- 2016 CIS Tournament MVP
- Represented Team Canada in 2017 World University Games in Taiwan

### **Jevohn Shepherd**

POSITION: Guard/Forward

HEIGHT: 6'5"

WEIGHT: 215 lbs.

BIRTHDATE: April 8, 1986

HOMETOWN: Toronto, ON

COLLEGE: University of Michigan (2009)

- Played 22 games for Team Canada
- Was a senior captain for the University of Michigan
- Helped guide University of Michigan to 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament in 2009
- Won Dutch Cup in 2012 with ZZ Leiden
- Has played professionally in Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, Italy, Belgium and France

### **Marvin Binney**

POSITION: Point Guard

HEIGHT: 6'3"

WEIGHT: 195 lbs.

BIRTHDATE: December 15, 1990

HOMETOWN: Toronto, ON

COLLEGE: St. Mary's (Texas) (2015)

- 2015 Heartland Conference Tournament MVP
- 2015 Heartland Conference All-First Team with St. Mary's (TX)

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- Led St. Mary's in scoring, assists and steals in 2015
- 2014 Heartland Conference Newcomer of the Year with St. Mary's (TX)

### **Emanuel Shepherd**

POSITION: Forward

HEIGHT: 6'8"

WEIGHT: 200 lbs.

BIRTHDATE: December 29, 1995

HOMETOWN: Toronto, ON

COLLEGE: Southern University (2018)

### **Chris Johnson**

POSITION: Guard/Forward

HEIGHT: 6'5"

WEIGHT: 205 lbs.

BIRTHDATE: July 13, 1988

HOMETOWN: North Preston, NS

COLLEGE: St. Bonaventure (2013)

- Won the Atlantic 10 Tournament in 2013, leading St. Bonaventure to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament
- Free Throw percentage of 87.7 in 2013 ranks fifth all-time in St. Bonaventure history
- Played professionally for Illiabum Clube in Portugal in 2016-17

### **Abednego Lufile**

POSITION: Forward

HEIGHT: 6'7"

WEIGHT: 240 lbs.

BIRTHDATE: June 8, 1994

HOMETOWN: Burlington, ON

COLLEGE: Arkansas Tech (2017)

- Brother's Chadrack and Meshack Lufile were also selected by Guelph Nighthawks in the 2019 CEBL Entry Draft
- Born in Democratic Republic of Congo



### **Meshack Lufile**

POSITION: Forward

HEIGHT: 6'8"

WEIGHT: 240 lbs.

BIRTHDATE: October 21, 1992

HOMETOWN: Burlington, ON

COLLEGE: Cape Breton University (2016)

- Brother's Chadrack and Abednego Lufile were also selected by Guelph Nighthawks in the 2019 CEBL Entry Draft
- 2013 led Cape Breton to AUS Championship game
- 2016 AUS Defensive Player of the Year at Cape Breton University
- In 2017-18 Played professionally in the Netherlands for Aris Leeuwarden

### **Marvell Waithe**

POSITION: Forward

HEIGHT: 6'9"

WEIGHT: 215 lbs.

BIRTHDATE: October 2, 1987

HOMETOWN: Scarborough, ON

COLLEGE: University of Arkansas (2012)

- Has played professionally in Denmark, Mexico and Canada
- Scored a career high 40 points while with Zonkeys de Tijuana against Lobos Mazatlan in Mexico

### **Myck Kabongo**

POSITION: Guard

HEIGHT: 6'2"

WEIGHT: 180 lbs.

BIRTHDATE: December 1, 1992

HOMETOWN: Toronto, ON

COLLEGE: University of Texas (2013)

- Born in Congo Republic, moved to South Africa at age three, and emigrated to Toronto at age six
- Played in McDonald's All-American Game in 2011
- Named to Big 12 All-Rookie Team in 2013
- Signed contract with San Antonio Spurs in 2013
- Played for Austin, Fort Wayne, Texas, Erie and Raptors 905 in the NBA G-League





### **Jamal Reynolds**

POSITION: Guard

HEIGHT: 6'4"

WEIGHT: 175 lbs.

BIRTHDATE: February 27, 1994

HOMETOWN: Pickering, ON

COLLEGE: Canisius (2016)

- Member of Canadian Jr. National Team in 2012
- Awarded the Charles Eppolito Unsung Hero Award while at Canisius
- Started 60 of his 65 games at Canisius
- Six career double-doubles at Canisius

### **Chadrack Lufile**

POSITION: Forward

HEIGHT: 6'9"

WEIGHT: 265

BIRTHDATE: September 11, 1990

HOMETOWN: Burlington, ON

COLLEGE: Wichita State University (2014)

- Brother's Meshack and Abednego Lufile were also selected by Guelph Nighthawks in the 2019 CEBL Entry Draft
- Featured on cover of Sports Illustrated while with Wichita State in 2013
- Advanced Wichita State to the Final Four in 2013, losing to eventual champion Louisville
- Led Wichita State to undefeated regular season in 2014
- Played for Sioux Falls of the NBA G-League in 2015

### **Malcolm Glanville**

POSITION: Guard

HEIGHT: 6'3"

WEIGHT: N/A

BIRTHDATE: N/A

HOMETOWN: Toronto, ON

COLLEGE: University of Guelph (current)

STATUS: USport Developmental Player

- Leading scorer for University of Guelph during 2018-19 OUA season
- Scored career high 39 points against both Lakehead and Brock during 2018-19 OUA season
- Majoring in Marketing Management





**Myles Charvis**

POSITION: Guard

HEIGHT: 6'0"

WEIGHT: N/A

BIRTHDATE: N/A

HOMETOWN: Mississauga, ON

COLLEGE: Ryerson (current)

STATUS: USport Developmental Player

- Led Ryerson to 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in USport Men's Basketball Championship
- Named 2019 OUA All-Star
- Majoring in Business Management

