**NEWS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**KU Basketball Legend Mario Chalmers shares his love for basketball in children’s book**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. -** Dreaming big, thinking big and playing big has always been a part of Mario Chalmers’ life, and now he’s ready to share his passion for basketball in his new book.

Throughout his basketball career, Chalmers has achieved a tremendous level of success. As a high school player in Alaska, Chalmers was named one of the Top-12 players in the nation, which led to a scholarship at the University of Kansas. At KU, Chalmers hit the now-legendary three-point shot in the title game, which eventually resulted in the Jayhawks winning the 2008 NCAA National Championship. After being named MVP for the ’08 champion Chalmers moved on to the NBA, winning back-to-back titles with the Miami Heat, and playing for the Memphis Grizzlies.

In the children’s book, ***Mario Chalmers’ ABCs of Basketball***, he showcases his skills as an author by teaming up with his mom and co-author, Almarie. A highly acclaimed and wonderfully illustrated children’s book, ***Mario Chalmers’ ABCs of Basketball*** was originally conceived by Chalmers when he was in high school.

During his junior year at Bartlett High School in Anchorage, Alaska, Mario and other members of instructor Dorena Montgomery’s English class were studying children’s literature. Hoping to foster a better understanding of the genre, Montgomery asked her students to write their own children’s books. The result was not just a good grade, but motivation from his teacher to do something more with the book. Despite a few setbacks, and even shelving the project for a time, the pieces eventually began falling into the place.

***Mario Chalmers’ ABCs of Basketball*** is a fun and lively story about a young “Rio” Chalmers and his friends. Created to inform, inspire and spark the interests of younger children, the book also serves as a great resource for older readers, as well as parents, eager to learn more about the game. So join the team, and come along with Mario and his friends in ***Mario Chalmers’ ABCs of Basketball***! Fast-paced, informative, and consistently positive, the book speaks directly to tomorrow’s student-athletes.

“The ABCs of Basketball” serves as the foundation of Mario’s success, and is designed to inspire and educate young readers while teaching the finer points of the game. The book will also be the centerpiece to launch Chalmers’ children’s literacy initiative which is using the hashtag #READWITHRIO. This new book is motivating and entertaining, for children and adults alike. Children will learn about the power of dreaming big, playing big and thinking big, as well as the importance of working hard to realize those dreams. It’s the perfect book for parents and children to read together.

**ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

**Mario Chalmers** acquired his love for basketball at age 2 thanks to a Nerf basketball and hoop, and brought home his first championship trophy from the local YMCA league at age 12. In high school, he won two Alaska State Championships, and was named as a McDonalds All-American. At the University of Kansas, “Rio” earned a starting position during his freshman year, and helped lead the Jayhawks to the Big 12 Conference title.Two seasons later, he was a key member of KU’s National Championship team, and famously hit a 3-point shot with 2.1 seconds left in regulation of the title game, which has come to be known as “The Miracle Shot.”Rio’s success has continued throughout his NBA career, winning back-to-back championships with the Miami Heat, and as a standout with the Memphis Grizzlies. Off the court, Rio is the founder of the Mario V. Chalmers Foundation, which supports the positive development of youth through sports and education, and also funds breast cancer research and treatment initiatives.

**Almarie Chalmers** is a certified professional life coach, as well as Mario Chalmers’ proud mom. She’s the founder of Speak Life (life-coaching for women), and the annual Speak Life With Word luncheons, which offer exhortation to women, focusing on mothers and female cancer survivors. Almarie married her childhood sweetheart, Ronnie, and together, raised their son, Mario, and a daughter, Roneka, a graduate of the University of North Carolina – Charlotte. Additionally, Almarie serves as executive director of the Mario V. Chalmers Foundation, and helped develop Mario ’s Closet, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Lawrence, Kansas. A 20-year veteran of the Anchorage (Alaska) School District, Almarie still finds time to work on her writing and attend her son’s games. Her first book is titled, ***The Ball is in Your Court***.

**ILLUSTRATOR**

**Emmanuel Everett** is a professional illustrator and designer, and has always been an avid daydreaming doodler. Growing up in Anchorage, Alaska, provided a unique landscape and culture that further inspired his artistic approach to life. Whether creating and designing alongside small businesses or Fortune-500 companies, he continues to establish a progressive presence as a young artist and designer.

Title: ***Mario Chalmers’ ABCs of Basketball, Dream Big. Think Big. Play Big.***

ISBN: 978-0-9989224-9-2

Age Range: 3-8 Grade Level: 2nd -5th

Price: US $15.95 / Canada $19.95

Trim Size: 9.5 x 7.5, Hardcover, with dust jacket Page Count: 40 pages

Genre: Children’s

**Copies available at retailers including, Barnes & Noble, Rally House / Kansas Sampler, Costco, Made in Kansas City, The Learning Tree, and many more. Online retailers include Amazon (www.amazon.com) and barnesandnoble.com.**

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**For more Information, or to request an interview, please contact Molly Gore at mgore@ascendbooks.com, or call 913-948-7635.**

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