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For Immediate Release

### **“Road Runner” Runs the Show for Wizards**

Secaucus, NJ – Any fan of cartoons knows that the Road Runner is famous for using his unbridled speed to elude Wile E. Coyote. Any fan of the Harlem Wizards knows that the Wizards have a “Road Runner” of their own in the form of second-year sensation, James Tyndal, who uses his blinding speed to elude the defense. Being the youngest player on the team at age 24, Road Runner has brought a youthful exuberance that has been a newfound source of energy for the team that has been synonymous with “Trick Hoops and Alley Oops” since 1962. Standing at only 5’9, Road Runner will be returning for his second season with the Wizards and will be speeding like the original Road Runner in gyms and arenas across the world.

A native of the Bronx, New York, James starred as a point guard for Monsignor Scanlan High School. In patterning his game after his father, James Sr., who was a New York City basketball star in his own right, James excelled as a floor leader and earned All-Division Honors as a Junior and Senior. James never allowed his height to be a disadvantage and simply outworked and outthustled the competition. Road Runner’s success continued at the college level where he averaged 13 points and 5 assists per game for Buffalo State College (Division III, SUNYAC Conference) and earned All-Conference Honors during his senior season. It was here that James earned the nickname of “Road Runner” for his quickness. What his college coach, Fajiri Ansari, also noticed was that James Tyndal possessed a flair for the dramatic and showmanship skills that were worthy of a career in show basketball. He set James up with a tryout with the Harlem Wizards in 2009 and thanks to James practicing ball handling tricks from the time he was a young boy, he “wowed” the coaching staff and made the team.

James had many memorable moments during his rookie season with the Wizards. In addition to playing in China, James also got to play in Madison Square Garden, which he describes as a “dream come true.” On this occasion at MSG, he even attempted to make the day more special by trying to accomplish a rare feat; jump over WNBA star, Cappie Pondexter, and complete a slam dunk. Unfortunately, James tripped and missed the dunk, and his Wizards teammates still tease him about that moment to this day. Such is the experience that

Road Runner will have to endure as many of his Wizards teammates are five to ten years older than him. During his rookie season, James spent a lot of time serving as the apprentice to A-Train, who is also a point guard. As the year progressed, Road Runner also became more accustomed to the Wizards' demanding travel and promotional schedule.

Despite only being 24, James still has a key role on the Wizards team. He gets to use his ball handling skills, creativity, and brings an enthusiastic attitude that creates a spark in gyms and arenas nationwide. Last year, he also learned how to slide on the floor during the performance and the result is often a loud roar from the crowd. Road Runner beams when he speaks about his experiences with the Wizards thus far: "Our mission is not just about basketball. It's about sharing our talents with kids and making people smile." James is an excellent role model for children and he delivers a strong message to children in his travels across the country: "Never give up and always believe in yourself."

As Road Runner will take on a bigger role with the team this year, his goal is to improve on every aspect of his show basketball repertoire. He wants to continue to dazzle audiences with his lightning speed and tricks, maintain a positive attitude towards the sacrifices that professional basketball players must make, and enhance his consistency. In what looks like the start of a long, promising career with the Harlem Wizards, Road Runner appears to be on the fast track to stardom, almost as fast as the pace that Road Runner kept to escape the wrath of Wile E. Coyote. Beep Beep!

**Health and Fitness Fact-** The Road Runner workout consists of calisthenics, push ups, and sit ups. To build up his speed and stamina, Road Runner goes to the court and runs "suicide drills," which consists of sprinting the court as fast as he can and touching the foul line, midcourt line, opposing foul line, and opposing baseline.