



BIOGRAPHY

A twelve-year veteran of the National Basketball Association, Jamaal ‘Big Cat’ Magloire—the tough, defensive-playing centre, resilient enforcer, rebounder, and shot-blocker—was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. By the age of 14 Jamaal was already 6’5”, and had a vision to play in the NBA. With a naturally competitive spirit, he possessed an ongoing desire to win, a passion to play, and a dedication to protect his teammates, which was evident early in his athletic development. His phenomenal high school playing career led him to be the most highly recruited Canadian prospect of his generation.

On June 28, 2000 at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, surrounded by family and friends, Jamaal heard his name called in the NBA Draft; he was picked up by the Charlotte Hornets with the 19th overall spot. It was with the Hornets that Jamaal saw career highs in points per game, points per season, rebounds per game, and where he was voted into the 2004 All Star Team.

It was a natural decision for Jamaal to accept an offer from the Toronto Raptors in December 2011, and return to the city that had supported and nurtured him throughout his career. The first Canadian to play for the 16-year-old Raptors franchise, Jamaal became team captain, and an inspirational addition to the roster. Providing a strong physical presence and veteran leadership, Jamaal was honoured to be able to journey back home for the final stretch of his career.

Jamaal founded the Jamaal Magloire Basketball Association (JAMBA) in 2006, providing children in Scarborough with the opportunity to play and compete amongst the Ontario Basketball Association. JAMBA also encourages education as a means to achieving dreams, and players have had high success rates with acceptances to colleges and universities.

In December of 2011 Jamaal had his editorial debut as a weekly columnist for The Caribbean Camera, a Toronto-based publication geared towards the West Indian community. Through “Big Cat’s Corner,” Jamaal reflects on his culture, his community, and career, giving him an opportunity to regularly connect with those in his hometown who have consistently blessed his endeavours.

Jamaal continues involvement with his mother Marion’s non-profit organization, Youth Deserve A Chance To Dream, and also played a pivotal role in the organization United Mothers Opposing Violence Everywhere (UMOVE), founded after the passing of his brother Justin in 2001.

While playing basketball is his first love, it is only one of many strong attributes that make Jamaal an outstanding leader in his community and an ambassador for Toronto’s Caribbean culture.

AVAILABLE FOR

- Speaking Engagements
- Product Endorsements
- Celebrity Appearances