



Barnwell School District 45

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Warhorse Student-Athlete Russell Branch Named Top 5 Basketball Player in State

Barnwell, S.C. December 17, 2021 – Barnwell School District 45 is proud to announce that Varsity Warhorse Basketball Player Russell Branch was named one of the top five players of the 2021-2022 basketball season by the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association.

A Senior at Barnwell High School (BHS), Branch has been an integral part of the Warhorse Basketball Program for several years. Branch has joined a shortlist of players in Barnwell's history who have reached 1,000 career points, All-State Honors, All-Region, Amateur Athletic Union National Champion Runner-Up, and now being named a Top Five Senior in the state. "Russell has been an absolute pleasure to Coach. As a Coach, you dream of coaching a kid who is a winner both on and off the basketball court," said Warhorse Basketball Head Coach Marcus Rivera. "Branch comes from a family who has instilled the characteristics it takes to make it in today's world, and I'm just happy to be a part of this phase in his life."



Branch's mother, Dr. Tywana Chenault Hemby, has expressed how pleased she is that her son is being rewarded for his hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball by being named a Top Five Senior. According to Dr. Hemby, "Our family is privileged to be a part of such a supportive community at BHS. They have provided him with opportunities to excel on and off the court. Because of this, he truly is #WarhorseStrong, and we pray that God continues to order his steps."

With the basketball season in full swing, the team is looking forward to a great season. "The district respects and acknowledges the hard work of our student-athletes and coaches throughout our athletic programs. It is so uplifting to see students like Russell receive the recognition they deserve, and to see his hard work and commitment pay off in such exciting ways! Barnwell School District 45 is so proud of Russell's dedication, and we are honored that he represents our district," said Superintendent Crissie Stapleton.

With his many accolades and accomplishments, Branch strives to remain modest and exhibit strong values on and off the court. He said it best, "I'm humbled by the chance to represent my family and my school on such a National level. It makes me feel good that people recognize my talents in a small town like Barnwell. I'm thankful for my family, friends, teachers, coaches, and principals who support me; and I am thankful for God's blessings!"

