

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Celebrity Basketball Challenge Raises Over \$18k in Second Year – Benefiting People with Disabilities**



*Pictured:* Participants of the second Celebrity Basketball Challenge, team captains from the Easter Seals Wisconsin Transitions Camp, and team sponsor coaches Steve Peotter (President & CEO, Oregon Community Bank) and Mike Doers (Madison Market President, Town Bank).



*Pictured left to right:* Dr. Maggie (Smith) Budde, Affiliated Dentists; Dr. Susie Dendinger, Affiliated Dentists; Andy Crooks, Board Member, Easter Seals Wisconsin; Dr. Mark Gustavson, Affiliated Dentists; and Zach Morley, Board Member, Easter Seals Wisconsin.

Madison, WI – Easter Seals Wisconsin hosted its second Celebrity Basketball Challenge on April 13 at Madison College, raising \$18,200 for the organization’s programs and services benefiting people with disabilities. Affiliated Dentists secured the presenting sponsorship for the second year in a row. Team sponsors Town Bank and Oregon Community bank. Media partner – The Zone featuring The Joe & Ebo Show, Joe Miller as game commentator. The roster showcased former University of Wisconsin athletes including retired NFL offensive lineman and 2023 Hall of Fame candidate, Joe Thomas; 6’11” retired NBA center, Greg Stiemsma; Stanley Cup winners Jake Dowell and Davis Drewiske; and 2017 Big Ten All-Defensive Team and 2x Academic All-Big Ten guard, Zak Showalter.

Just prior to the celebrity game, former UW men’s basketball assistant coach Gary Close held a Shot Doctor Skills Academy for students grades 3-6. Nearly 40 attended and worked one-on-one with former UW players to develop their basketball skills.

**Basketball** – Ben Brust (2010-2014), Brian Butch (2004-2008), Clayton Hanson (2001-2005), Zach Morley (2003-2005), Keaton Nankivil (2007-2001), Zak Showalter (2012-2017), Wquinton Smith (2007-2011), Greg Stiemsma (2004-2008), Mike Wilkinson (2001-2005), Charlie Wills (1998-2002).

**Football** – Sam Arneson (2012-2014), Travis Beckum (2005-2008), Brian Calhoun (2003-2005), Andy Crooks (2004-2007), Tyler Donovan (2004-2007), Ryan Flasch (2007-2008), Nick Hayden (2004-2007), Kyle Jefferson (2007-2010), Jake Keefer (2014-2015), Louis Nzegwu (2008-2011), Joel Stave (2012-2015), John Stocco (2003-2006), Ben Strickland (2004-2007), Joe Thomas (2003-2006).

**Hockey** – Jake Dowell (2003-2007), Davis Drewiske (2004-2008).

**About Easter Seals Wisconsin:** For over 90 years, Easter Seals Wisconsin ([www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com)) has provided services that help children and

adults with disabilities gain greater independence. Easter Seals’ primary services – vocational rehabilitation, respite services, camping and recreation, information and referral, and public education – benefit close to 10,000 individuals with disabilities and their families each year throughout Wisconsin.

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