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GOVERNOR BUSH AND THE FLORIDA SPORTS FOUNDATION AWARD 29 SPORTS GRANTS

~ \$246,000 awarded to sporting events statewide to enhance overall economic impact ~

TALLAHASSEE - Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida Sports Foundation today awarded 29 grants totaling \$246,000 supporting sporting events statewide. Funded through the sale of professional sports license plates, the quarterly grants program helps local organizations attract sporting events that generate significant economic impact through increased tourism.

“Through the sale of professional sports tags, we are able to fund amateur sporting events bringing people from all across the country to Florida,” said Governor Bush. “These regional sports events add substantially to the local economic base and support Florida’s status as the *Sports Capital of the World*, and we are proud to be able to assist in their success.”

Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$35,000 were awarded to the 29 sporting events that, cumulatively are expected to attract more than 86,000 out-of-state visitors and contribute more than \$45 million to the Sunshine State's economy. These grants represent the third of four grant cycles during the 2004-05 fiscal year. The Florida Sports Foundation has contributed \$460,000 to 54 events this fiscal year.

Three grant periods remain in 2005 with the following upcoming deadlines:

April 10 for final recommendation at June Board of Directors meeting. Events must be held after July 1, 2005

July 10 for final recommendation at the September Board of Directors meeting. Events must be held after October 1, 2005.

October 10 for final recommendation at the December Board of Directors meeting. Events must be held after January 1, 2006.

Overseen by the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the Florida Sports Foundation was founded in 1992 as the state's lead organization in promoting and developing both amateur and professional sports. The Foundation's goal is to develop and promote professional, amateur, and recreational sports and physical fitness opportunities that produce a thriving Florida sports industry and environment. For more information on the Florida Sports Foundation, or for information on the grants program and the events it currently funds, please call (850) 488-8347 or go to <http://www.flasports.com/>.

Sports grant recipients include:

- South Florida AVP Beach Volleyball, Fort Lauderdale, April 1-3, 2005
- Jr. US Open Judo Championships, Fort Lauderdale, April 2-7, 2005
- YMCA Swimming & Diving National Championship, Fort Lauderdale, April 2-8, 2005
- Bausch & Lomb Tennis Championships, Amelia Island, April 4-10, 2005
- NCAA National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship, Apopka, April 13-16, 2005
- B.A.S.S Federation Fishing Championship, Lake Tohopekaliga, April 26-28, 2005
- USSSA Daytona Beach Major National Slow-Pitch Softball Invitation Tournament, Daytona Beach, Ormond Beach, April 29-May 1, 2005

- NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championship, Howey-in-the-Hills, May 7-12, 2005
- NFL Quarterback Challenge, Fort Lauderdale Beach, May 8-15, 2005
- NCAA Division II Men's & Women's Tennis Championships, Altamonte Springs, May 10-14, 2005
- FINA Diving Grand Prix, Fort Lauderdale, May 12-15, 2005
- American Power Boat Association Marathon Offshore Grand Prix, Marathon, May 13-15, 2005
- USA Taekwondo National Qualifier, Fort Lauderdale, May 13-15, 2005
- South Zone Region B Synchronized Swimming Age Group Championships, Orlando, May 15-17, 2005
- NJCAA Women's Division I National Softball Championship, Clermont, May 19-21, 2005
- United States Masters National Short Course Swimming Championship, Fort Lauderdale, May 19-22
- USTA Open National Clay Court Tennis Championships, Fort Lauderdale, May 20-26, 2005
- 2005 Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball Tournament, Jacksonville, May 24-30, 2005
- Atomic Race Team Memorial Day Cycling Championship Weekend, Tallahassee, May 28-30, 2005
- USSSA Kissimmee National Invitational Tournament Festival (Multi-sport event), Kissimmee, June 17-19, 2005
- AAU Karate Jr. & Sr. National Championship, Lakeland, June 27-July 2, 2005
- US Open Table Tennis, Fort Lauderdale, July 5-12, 2005
- The Breakdown Hoops Festival, Miami, July 13-15, 2005
- US Tennis Association National Clay Court Championships, Fort Lauderdale, July 17-24, 2005
- PONY National Fast-pitch Softball Championships, Davie, July 30-31, 2005
- US Open Judo Championships, Fort Lauderdale, August 2-7, 2005
- United States Dance Sport Championships, Fort Lauderdale, September 3-10, 2005
- Miami Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival, October 22-23, 2005
- United Soccer League Bash in the Bay, Tampa, November 16-22, 2005

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