

## GOVERNOR BUSH ANNOUNCES SPORTS GRANTS

~19 grants totaling \$199,000 awarded to sporting events statewide~

TALLAHASSEE - Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida Sports Foundation today announced the award of 19 grants totaling \$199,000 to support sporting events held throughout the state. Funded through the sale of professional sports license plates, the quarterly grants program helps local organizations attract recognized sporting events that generate significant economic impact through increased tourism.

"In Florida, we pride ourselves as being home and host to the best sporting events anywhere in the world," said Governor Bush. "In addition to the excitement of athletic competition, these sporting events contribute much to our state's economy through increased tourism and related expenditures. The regional sports grant is an important tool to promote and attract sports events, participants and spectators from across the nation to visit and play in the Sunshine State."

Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000 were awarded to the 19 sporting events that, cumulatively, are expected to attract more than 71,000 out-of-state visitors and contribute more than \$44 million to the Sunshine State's economy. These grants represent the second of four grant cycles during the 2004-05 fiscal year. Since July, the Florida Sports Foundation has contributed \$214,000 to 25 events.

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 [www.flasports.com](http://www.flasports.com).

Sports events receiving regional grants include:

- Kelly Slater Pro (Prof. Men's & Women's Surfing), Cocoa Beach, January 2-7, 2005
- Flag & Touch Football League National Championship, Kissimmee, January 15-17, 2005
- Crappiemasters Inc. Mega Bucks Tournament, Tavares, January 15, 2005
- CITGO Bassmaster Tournament Trail Tour, Kissimmee, January 27-30, 2005
- Miami Tropical Marathon and Half-Marathon, January 30, 2005
- Palm Beach Challenge (Baseball/Softball), Palm Beach County, Feb. 20-April 4, 2005
- Edgewater Classic (Women's Gymnastics), Panama City Beach, February 11-13, 2005
- Marvin Blumenthal Basketball Tournament, Orlando, February 24-27, 2005
- World Cup of Flag Football, Miami Shores, February 24-27, 2005
- Port Charlotte College Baseball Invitational, February 26-March 26, 2005
- Tampa Bay (NCAA Division III Baseball) Invitational, February 26-April 2, 2005
- NCAA Division II Swimming & Diving Championships, Orlando, March 9-12, 2005
- Pro Tennis World Open, Sunrise, March 13-20, 2005

- Festival of Speed, Orlando, March 19-20, 2005
- USTA Boy's & Girl's Nat'l Spring Championships, Palm Beach Co., April 10-17, 2005
- Bay Area Youth Track & Field Classic, University of South Florida, May 27-29, 2005
- North American Roller Hockey Championships, Estero, July 15-29, 2005
- World Youth Netball Championships, Fort Lauderdale, July 19-31, 2005
- USA Karate-do National Championships, Fort Lauderdale, July 12-17, 2006

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