

2005 Florida Spring Training season sets attendance records

Florida's Grapefruit League established new records for total attendance and average attendance per game in 256 games played in 17 statewide locations during the March 2-April 2 season

A total of 1,598,454 baseball fans attended spring training games, surpassing the previous record of 1,598,255 set in 1998 when 20 teams held spring training in Florida. Currently, 18 teams train in the Sunshine State. The average per game attendance of 6,244 shattered the record set last year of 5,794.

The record was set even though 24 games were rained out and not rescheduled. On March 9, a full slate of 10 games were rained out.

Six teams topped the 100,000 attendance mark as the New York Yankees led the way with 152,655 at Tampa's Legends Field. The Atlanta Braves drew 123,858 fans to Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex while the Minnesota Twins had

111,691 at Hammond Stadium in Fort Myers. The World Champion Boston Red Sox had a total of 109,071 fans at City of Palms Park in Fort Myers and the Philadelphia Phillies drew 104,693 to Bright House Networks Field. The Detroit Tigers had 102,685 at Joker Marchant Stadium in Lakeland.

Overall, 14 of 18 Florida teams had gains in total or per game attendance. According to a 2000 economic impact survey released by the FSF, Major League Baseball spring training annually contributes \$450 million to Florida's economy.



Sunshine State Games registration currently underway

Registration information for Florida's Sunshine State Games 2005 Summer Games is now available on www.flasports.com.

The 2005 Summer Games (June 15-19) and Basketball Festival (June 24-26) registration applications can be downloaded from the FSF web site. Athletes can also send an email to games@flasports.com or call toll free 1-866-FL-GAMES to request a sport brochure.

There's still time left to register for the 2005 Summer Games and Basketball Festival.

The postmark deadline for the 2005 Summer Games varies by sport. The first postmark deadline is May 20 and other sports follow.

Entries for the 2005 Basketball Festival in Gainesville must be postmarked by June 3.

Entry fees for the 2005 Summer Games vary by sport and the Basketball Festival entry fee is \$350 per team. Each basketball team is guaranteed to play seven games.

Over 9,000 of Florida's finest amateur athletes are expected to participate in 25 sports of the 2005 Summer Games.

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Performance Health Inc., - Biofreeze partners with FSF

FSF announces a three-year partnership with Performance Health, Inc, the makers of Biofreeze, as a silver-level sponsor. The partnership will involve various aspects of the FSF including distributing Biofreeze at granted events statewide, the Florida Senior Games State Championships and Florida's Sunshine State Games events and festivals.

BIOFREEZE® is a unique, effective analgesic formulated to provide a variety of benefits for therapy, pain relief, exercise/training and overall comfort. BIOFREEZE® contains ILEX, an herbal extract from a South American holly shrub. It is used

worldwide in health & wellness formulations. BIOFREEZE® uses no waxes, oils, aloe or petroleum. The result is fast-acting, deep penetrating, long lasting pain relief.

Although the partnership just became official, Biofreeze has been distributed at FSF events for the last three years. "We get so many inquiries about Biofreeze from the athletes at our amateur sports competitions, it was only a matter of time before we made our partnership with Performance Health, Inc. official," said FSF President/CEO Larry Pendleton. "It's very popular with amateur athletes of all ages."

2005 Grapefruit League Team-by-Team Attendance Totals

Atlanta Braves, Orlando
123,858 total – 9,528 per game avg.

Baltimore Orioles, Ft. Lauderdale
92,546 total – 6,610 per game avg.

Boston Red Sox, Ft. Myers
109,071 total -- 7,791 per game avg.

Cincinnati Reds, Sarasota
87,292 total – 5,456 per game avg.

Cleveland Indians, Winter Haven
64,302 total – 4,593 per game avg.

Detroit Tigers, Lakeland
102,685 total – 6,417 per game avg.

Florida Marlins, Jupiter
86,429 total – 5,761 per game avg.

Houston Astros, Kissimmee
58,581 total — 4,506 per game avg.

L.A. Dodgers, Vero Beach
62,930 total — 4,195 per game avg.

Minnesota Twins, Ft. Myers
111,691 total -- 7,446 per game avg.

New York Mets, Port St. Lucie
83,822 total – 5,588 per game avg.

New York Yankees, Tampa
152,655 total -- 10,177 per game avg

Philadelphia Phillies, Clearwater
104,693 total – 7,478 per game avg

Pittsburgh Pirates, Bradenton
68,562 total – 4,897 per game avg.

St. Louis Cardinals, Jupiter
95,352 total — 6,810 per game avg.

Tampa Bay Devil Rays, St. Petersburg
65,461 total – 4,675 per game avg.

Toronto Blue Jays, Dunedin
53,620 total – 4,124 per game avg.

Washington Nationals, Viera
74,904 total – 6,242 per game avg.

32 days, 256 games
1,598,454 total — 6,244 average
(24 games rained out)

Florida Spring Training Attendance (1996-2005)

Year	Total Attendance	Per Game Average
2005	1,598,454	6,244
2004	1,557,934	5,792
2003	1,397,144	5,272
2002	1,538,444	5,028
2001	1,500,184	5,320
2000	1,598,255	5,473
1999	1,502,617	5,042
1998	1,418,488	4,776
1997	1,353,788	4,468
1996	1,371,465	4,795

FSF Sponsors



BlueCross BlueShield of Florida

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Governor Bush announces 29 sports grants totaling \$246,000

Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida Sports Foundation announced the award of 29 grants totaling \$246,000 to support sports events statewide. 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.

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. Since July, 2004, the Florida Sports Foundation has contributed \$460,000 to 54 events. The 29 grants are the most awarded in a quarter since the program began in 1997.

Two grant periods remain in 2005 with an upcoming deadline of July 10 for final recommendation at the September, 2005 Board of Directors meeting. The events must be held after October 1 of the same year. There is an October 10 deadline for final recommendation at the December Board of Directors meeting. Events must be held after January 1, 2006.

Sports events receiving grants 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, Kissimmee, April 26-28, 2005 ** USSSA Daytona Beach Major National Slow-Pitch Softball Invitational, Daytona & 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

Featured FSF Granted Event—Miami Tropical Marathon and Half-Marathon

With 7,500 runners lining up at American Airlines Arena for a 6:00 a.m. start on January 30, 2005 in downtown Miami, you know you're in for a good race.

The Miami Tropical Marathon and Half-Marathon is a 26.2 mile and 13.1 mile running circuit featuring a scenic route through Downtown Miami, Miami Beach and its Art Deco District, the Venetian Islands, Brickell Avenue and Coconut Grove.

The event was not only about running but also a two-day Health & Fitness Expo, a 5K race,

Pasta Party, and health and fitness seminars.

For the third consecutive year, FSF has awarded the Miami Tropical Marathon and Half-Marathon a regional grant. Along with support from the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County the Foundation awarded the event a \$15,000 grant. Overall the event brought the state a \$3.6 million economic impact with 2,488 out of state participants and 4,234 out of state spectators. The event boasted 9,347 room nights for Miami.

It looks like this event is going to be a fixture in Miami for years to come.

Florida Sports Foundation

2930 Kerry Forest Parkway
Suite 101
Tallahassee, Florida 32309
www.flasports.com

Phone: (850) 488-8347
Fax: (850) 922-0482
Toll Free 1-866-FL-GAMES

*The Official Sports Promotion and
Development Organization of the State of Florida*

FSF welcomes members to Board of Directors

Governor Jeb Bush announced the following appointments to the FSF Board of Directors. Each will serve a four-year term through 2008.

Terry-Jo Myers, of Fort Myers, LPGA touring professional, succeeds William H. Hammond, who served for eight years including two as FSF President. Sean Murphy, an Orlando management consultant, succeeds Dr. Jim Gills and Jason Unger, a Tallahassee, attorney, succeeds Nancy Hogshead-Makar. Each of their terms begins May 13.

Reappointed for four-year terms were Robin Safley, of Tallahassee and Shane Platt, of Winter Haven, beginning May 13.

FSF 2005 EVENT SCHEDULE

April 23-May 22, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games Sport Shooting Championships, Central Florida

May 13-15, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games Figure Skating Championships, Incredible Ice, Coral Springs

May 29-30

Florida's Sunshine State Games Artistic Roller Skating Championships, The Palace, Lantana

June 15-19, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games, Broward County

June 24-26, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games Basketball Festival, Gainesville

November 12-13, 2005

Florida's Sunshine State Games Flag Football State Championships, Broward County

2005 State Ranking Tournament Schedule

August 13-14, August 27-28, September 10-11, September 24-25, October 8-9, October 22-23

December 3-11, 2005

Florida Senior Games State Championships
The Villages, Florida

Florida Tourism in the spotlight at State Capitol

The Florida Sports Foundation joined forces with mascots from the Florida Marlins, Florida Panthers, Tampa Bay Lightning and Orlando Magic to celebrate Florida's top industry, tourism.

Florida Tourism Day 2005 was held in Tallahassee, March 22 and state tourism leaders gathered to spread the word. Representatives from Florida's 18 sports commissions attended the festivities presented by the FSF, Visit Florida, Florida Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, Florida Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds, Florida Attractions Association, Florida Lodging Association and Florida Restaurant Association.

Florida Tourism Fun Facts

- In 2003 Florida welcomed more than 74.5 million visitors, making it one of the most popular holiday destinations in the world.
- Florida boasts more than 4,753 hotels and motels with a total of 391,019 guest rooms and 35,000 restaurants with combined seating for more than 3 million patrons.

- Florida has 1,200 miles of sandy beaches, some of which are rated as the finest in the U.S. In 2003 Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman (a.k.a. Dr Beach) named four Florida beaches to his "Top Ten Beaches" rankings. They were Fort De Soto Park (No. 2) near St. Petersburg; Caladesi Island State Park (No. 4) near Clearwater; Crescent Beach (No. 7) on Siesta Key near Sarasota and Cape Florida State Park (No. 9) near Miami.

