



June 2006

Vision

Vision, the e-newsletter of the Miami-Dade Sports Commission is back and better than ever! Designed to keep you up-to-date and in the loop on the latest sporting events and activities taking place in Miami-Dade County and at your local Sports Commission, you can be sure you won't be miss a thing!

MIAMI SPORTS TAKES ON NEW STAFF & NEW DIGS

May was a busy month for the Miami-Dade Sports Commission with not just a move to Miami Lakes, but also the hiring of two new full-time staff members. Since its creation by County ordinance 2003, the Sports Commission has worked overtime with two staff members bringing more than 20 events, generating over 60,000 room nights and nearly \$100 million in economic impact for the Miami- Dade County community. These exciting accomplishments have allowed for your Miami-Dade Sports Commission to grow and prosper.

It is with great excitement, that we introduce Shawn Thorimbert, Director of Business Development, and Jason Cover, Director of Events.

[Shawn Thorimbert](#) joins the Miami-Dade Sports Commission as Director of Business Development, bringing with him over a decade of professional sport sales and venue management. Prior to joining the Sports Commission staff, Shawn was the Building Operations & Marketing Manager of the Miami Arena under the management of the Miami Sports and Exhibition Authority.

Shawn will be working on building the Sports Commission partnership and membership programs.

[Jason Cover](#) joined the Miami-Dade Sports Commission as Director of Events. Prior to joining the Sports Commission, Jason was an Events Manager for Florida Citrus Sports, producers of the The Capital One Bowl and the Champs Sports Bowl.

Jason will take over event operation and execution for the Sports Commission hosted and owned events.

Since its inception, Miami-Dade Sports Commission has been graciously housed in the offices of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitor's Bureau. This partnership and unyielding support has allowed your Miami-Dade Sports Commission to grow as an organization. With this growth came the need for additional office space. Thanks in part to the support of the Don Shula Hotel and Golf Club and the Graham Companies, we are now situated in Miami Lakes.

Please feel free to stop by any time to meet our new staff and visit our new home!

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BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS & GROWING FRIENDSHIPS IN MIAMI SPORTS

The Miami-Dade Sports Commission is proud to welcome the [Don Shula Hotel and Golf Club](#), [Double Tree Grand Biscayne Bay Miami](#), [Marriott Biscayne Bay](#), [Marriott Miami Dadeland](#), [Hilton Miami Airport](#), and the [New Radisson Hotel Miami](#), as official Industry Partners of Miami Sports.

The Miami Sports Industry Partner program provides an opportunity for hotels, attractions and other businesses involved in Miami's tourism industry to actively participate in the Sports Commission's mission to generate economic impact, room nights and visitor stays in our destination through sports.

"We truly appreciate the continued support of these partners," said Mike Sophia, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Sports Commission. "Their direct participation and support of sports gives us the ability to generate more business for our community and to create more opportunities in sports for everyone."

For more information on how you can become a Miami Sports Industry Partner, contact [Shawn Thorimbert](#) today!

MIAMI WELCOMES THE 2006 AAU KARATE NATIONALS

The 2006 AAU Karate Nationals will take place June 26 - July 1 at FIU's Pharmed Arena. This exciting event will consist of over 2,000 athletes kicking and chopping their way into a spot at the [2006 AAU Junior Olympic Championships](#)! The top four athletes from each appropriate age category in the intermediate and advanced divisions will qualify to participate.

The AAU Karate Nationals will include Kata, Kobudo and Kumite styles of competition. Athletes ranging from 5 years old to 34 years and older will begin competition following the Opening Ceremonies, on Wednesday, June 28th. Registration will begin on June 26th at the Double Tree Grand Hotel in beautiful Downtown Miami.

The AAU Karate program offers competition for AAU Karate members in the form of National Qualifiers, National Championships, Training Camps and Clinics, and the AAU Junior Olympic Games. AAU Karate prides itself on their coaches education program,

referee training program, technical development, performance enhancement, and their elite athlete training. To learn how you can participate in the AAU Karate program please visit www.AAUKarate.org.

We continue to work on several prospective events each day, and are always interested in new sports and new events. If you have any events or sports that you would like us to work on, or you are just curious as to other events we are considering, please feel free to email your Miami-Dade Sports Commission.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks goes out to all the facilities, hotels, park directors and friends that helped create a wonderful Olympic atmosphere for the 2006 Florida's Sunshine State Games!

CONGRATULATIONS!

2006 NBA Champions Miami Heat

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Each Warrior wants to leave the mark of his will, his signature, on important acts he touches. This is not the voice of ego but of the human spirit, rising up and declaring that it has something to contribute to the solution of the hardest problems, no matter how vexing! ~ Pat Riley

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