



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 10, 2006

Contact: Heather Wasek, Assistant Director
(305) 818 - 7188
hwasek@miamisports.org

MIAMI SPORTS KICK-OFF CLASSIC OPENS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON

MIAMI – The Miami-Dade Sports Commission (MDSC) announced today the Miami Sports Kick-off Classic will be the pre-season opener for the Miami-Dade County high school football season. Created by the MDSC and the Greater Miami Athletic Conference (GMAC), the event will take place annually at the start of each football season.

“The road to the state football championship now starts and ends in Miami,” said Mike Sophia, Executive Director of MDSC. “We want to put a spotlight on the great tradition and passion of high school football in South Florida, building to the Dodge FHSAA Football Finals at Dolphin Stadium in December.”

The Miami Sports Kick-off Classic will be hosted at Florida International University on Saturday, August 19, 2006. In its inaugural year, the event will consist of two games with four teams from Miami-Dade County that do not typically meet during the regular high school football season. Teams will play full four quarter games.

The schedule for the Miami Sports Kick-off Classic will be as follows:

August 19, 2006

6:00 PM	Miami Central Senior High School	vs.	Miami Edison High School
8:30 PM	Northwestern Miami Senior High	vs.	Booker T. Washington High School

The event marks the start of a season long celebration of high school football, leading up to the 2006 Dodge FHSAA Football Finals at Dolphin Stadium. “The Road to Miami” will include a Game of the Week featuring the premiere high school match-ups in both Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. The Road to Miami series can be followed at www.RoadtoMiami.org.

“The Miami Sports Kick-off Classic is a great opportunity for everyone to get a preview of the young and exciting talent our community and athletic system produces,” states Cheryl Golden, GMAC. “We believe that the ‘Road to Miami’ not only ends in Miami with the FHSAA Football Finals, but begins here as well. These games will help set that championship atmosphere and mind set for players, coaches, parents and fans for the entire football season.”

The Miami-Dade Sports Commission was created by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners in 2003, and opened for business in April of 2004. The Sports Commission promotes sports in Miami-Dade County, and works to secure sports events that will generate economic impact for the community. MDSC has proudly secured events such as the 2005 & 2006 FHSAA Football Finals, the 2006 Florida Sunshine State Games, and created events such as the Miami-Dade Senior Games.

- ### -