

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPORTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

MIAMI – The Miami-Dade Sports Commission (MDSC) is proud to announce the addition of nine (9) new members to the Board of Directors. The new members are:

- **Bob Beamon**, *1968 Olympic Gold Medalist & Olympic World Record Holder*

Bob Beamon represented the United States at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. He smashed the current record in the long jump to win a gold medal, and the moment was named as one of Sports Illustrated's five greatest moments in sports in the 20th Century. Beamon's Olympic record is currently the longest standing Olympic record to date.

- **Lance Benson**, *Grubb & Ellis Company*

Lance Benson is Vice President of the Grubb & Ellis Company in South Florida. Benson advises both local and national companies in developing and implementing strategic real estate plans, business strategy, consulting, emergency preparation, and real estate portfolio and transaction management.

Benson currently serves as President of South Florida Chapter of the Achilles Track Club, a nonprofit that encourages people with all types of disabilities to participate in mainstream athletics.

- **Laura Courtley-Todd**, *St. Thomas University*

Laura Courtley-Todd has been the Athletic Director at St. Thomas University since 2000. Honored as the 1999-2000 Florida Sun Conference Female Administrator of the year as well as the 1999-2000 Region XIV Athletic Director of the Year by the NAIA, Courtley-Todd has made her mark by showing her true commitment to make St. Thomas University a learning laboratory for the athletes and students.

- **Andre Dawson**, *Florida Marlins*

Andre Dawson is currently serving as a Special Assistant to President David Samson of the Florida Marlins. Dawson was the 1987 National League Most Valuable Player, recording 49 homers, 137 RBI's for the Chicago Cubs. He hit 174 homers in a Cubs' uniform, but that was just the second act in his fine career. Earlier, "The Hawk" starred as a five-tool center fielder for the Expos, hitting 225 homers and stealing 253 bases for Montreal in ten full seasons. He finished his career with two seasons for his hometown Florida Marlins.

- **Nizam Ishmael**, *Miami-Dade Police Department – Community Affairs Bureau*

Nizam Ishmael is a Lieutenant with the Miami-Dade Police Department's Community Affairs Bureau. Ishmael is responsible for providing the public with quality crime prevention education and maintaining positive public relations by establishing effective avenues of communication with various community organizations and groups.

- **Barry Kates**, *Innovative Marketing Group, Inc. & Innovative Events, LLC*

Barry Kates is the CEO and President of Innovative Marketing Group, Inc & Innovative Events, LLC. He is responsible for fusing client goals and objective initiatives while providing turnkey solutions to small, medium and large businesses. Kates specializes in strategic development, activation and goal surpassing execution of experiential, influential, and relationship marketing programs and special events.

- **Claudio Pico**, *Florida International University*

Claudio Pico is the Director of Finance and Administration at Florida International University. Pico serves as a key resource to the College of Business Administration in the administration of all fiscal and business operations, including internal accounting, procurement, logistic and contractual processes necessary for the effective and efficient functioning of all College of Business Administration administrative units and academic programs.

- **Tony Segreto**, *NBC 6*

Tony Segreto is one of the most experienced and trusted anchors on South Florida television. An integral part of the NBC 6 news team for more than 30 years, he currently anchors the 6:00 p.m. News with Julia Yarbough. He also hosts, the special segment, "The Spirit of South Florida."

- **Emilio Vazquez**, *The Capitolium Group, Inc.*

Emilio Vazquez is the President and CEO of The Capitolium Group, a public affairs, business development and governmental relations practice with offices in South Florida, Tampa and Washington, D.C. Vazquez puts his experience and knowledge to work on a daily basis on behalf of his clients, in order to achieve the results and outcomes they desire.

"We are pleased to have a group of this caliber join the sports commission board," said MDSC Board Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz. "Their background and experience in sports and community development will be a great asset to our organization."

Currently the MDSC Board is composed of 46 seats, of which 45 have been filled. For a complete list MDSC Board Members please visit www.MiamiSports.org or contact (305) 818-7188.

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. Since beginning full operation in 2004, the Miami-Dade Sports Commission has secured over 80,000 room nights, \$100 million in economic impact, and more than 26 events, including the 2005 & 2006 FHSAA Football Finals, the 2009 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Regional, US Fencing Summer Nationals, and 2006 Florida's Sunshine State Games.