



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, April 18, 2007  
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## **THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI OPENS ITS DOORS TO USA JUDO AND FUTURE OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER**

NORTH MIAMI – The City of North Miami, USA Judo, and the Miami-Dade Sports Commission will celebrate the opening of a temporary training facility for USA Judo on Thursday, April 19, 2007. The ribbon cutting and the temporary training center are the first step toward the ultimate USA Judo National Training Site and Olympic Training Facility to be developed in the City of North Miami.

The City of the North Miami is currently in the final stages of planning and negotiation for a Olympic Training Facility that will house the combative sports: Judo, Karate, Boxing, Fencing, and Taekwondo. The facility is a component of the City of North Miami's development agreement with the Biscayne Landing master-planned community, which calls for various off-site stipulations, including the Olympic Training Facility and a state-of-the-art municipal library. The North Miami facility would serve as a year-round training site for each of the National Governing Bodies responsible for fielding Olympic teams in each of their respective sports.

In addition to the ribbon cutting ceremony, the Miami-Dade Sports Commission will host the nation's best Judo athletes competing in the USA Judo Senior National Championships over the weekend, to be held at Florida International University's Pharmed Arena on Friday, April 20, through Saturday, April 21.

Miami-Dade County is a United States Olympic Community Partner. Miami is one of only 11 communities chosen to participate in this movement. The USOC Community Partner program is designed to promote the Olympic movement throughout the country, as well, as Miami-Dade County.

WHO: Jose Rodriguez, CEO, USA Judo  
Dr. Ron Tripp, President, USA Judo  
Kevin A. Burns, Mayor, City of North Miami  
Michael Blynn, Councilman, City of North Miami  
Jacques Despinosse, Councilman, City of North Miami  
Scott Galvin, Councilman, City of North Miami  
Marie Erlande Steril, Councilwoman, City of North Miami  
Clarence Patterson, City Manager, City of North Miami  
Dennis Kelly, Deputy City Manager, City of North Miami  
Mike Sophia, Executive Director, Miami-Dade Sports Commission  
Eddie Liddie, Director of Athlete Performance, USA Judo and 1984 Olympic medalist

**15280 NW 79<sup>th</sup> Court, Suite 109 • Miami Lakes, Florida 33016**  
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**[www.MiamiSports.org](http://www.MiamiSports.org)**

German Velazco, 2006 Junior World Team Coach  
Jhonny Prado, 2006 Junior World Team Coach

WHEN: Thursday, April 19 at 10:00 AM

WHERE: 1965 NE 148<sup>th</sup> Street  
North Miami, FL 33181

Media is invited to cover the event. Refreshments will be served immediately following. For more information, please contact Pam Solomon, City of North Miami Public Relations Officer at (305) 895-9891.

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