



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MIAMI-DADE SPORTS COMMISSION JOINS USOC AND USA JUDO TO PROMOTE SPORTSMANSHIP**

MIAMI – The Miami-Dade Sports Commission (MDSC), in partnership with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and USA Judo will partner to promote sportsmanship in two Miami-Dade County Middle Schools, Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

The USOC announced earlier this year that the Olympic value of “Sportsmanship” would be the theme promoted by the organization in 2007 as a part of its multi-year National Olympic Education Program. To help launch the promotion, MDSC worked with the USOC to coordinate the appearance of Adler Volmar, a 1996 Judo Olympian, at two Miami-Dade County Middle Schools: Campbell Drive Middle School and Miami Springs Middle School. “Real Athletes Are Good Sports” will be the message promoted to these young students, by Volmar, along with emphasis on the importance of healthy and active lifestyles.

Volmar has dual citizenship in the U.S. and Haiti and has represented Haiti as a Judo Olympian at the 1996 Olympic Games. He is currently training here in Miami trying to earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team for the 2008 Games in Beijing. Volmar is currently the number one ranked U.S. athlete in the 100 kg weight group.

The launch of the Sportsmanship Program coincides with the 2007 USA Judo Senior/Masters/Kata National Championships, April 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, held at Florida International University’s, Pharmed Arena. Volmar will be one of the premier competitors in this event.

The USA Judo Senior/Masters/Kata National Championships is held annually and consists of three events: Senior Shiai, Masters Championships, and Kata Championships. The place-winners of the Senior Championships are considered “elite” competitors and earn points toward national ranking; such points are pre-requisites to making a U.S. International Team such as those that compete in the Olympic Games or World Championships.

Throughout the year, Olympians and Paralympians will continue speak to middle and high school students throughout Miami-Dade County about their personal histories and experiences as representatives of our nation. Many of these speaking events will coincide with MDSC hosted events.

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

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Finals, the 2009 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Regional, US Fencing Summer Nationals, and 2006 Florida's Sunshine State Games.

The Miami-Dade Sports Commission is a proud partner of the United State Olympic Committee's Community Partner program.

Media interested in attending the presentation must obtain approval from the participating school. For more information, please contact the Miami-Dade Sports Commission at (305) 818-7188. For specific USOC information, please contact the USOC's Media & Public Relations Division at (719) 866-4529.

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