



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIAMI-DADE SPORTS COMMISSION WELCOMES IX MIAMI PAN AM INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

MIAMI – The Miami-Dade Sports Commission (MDSC) is proud to welcome the IX Miami Pan Am International Badminton Tournament April 19 - 21, 2007 to Shula's Athletic Club. This is the second year in which Shula's Athletic Club has hosted this prestigious event. With over 100 competitors from more than 15 countries, the event will feature athletes that are likely to represent their countries in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

"We are proud to host some of the world's best athletes in Badminton and Judo here in Miami on the same weekend," stated Mike Sophia, MDSC Executive Director. "It is a great opportunity for the people in our community to see next year's Olympians here in Miami on an international stage."

The USA Judo Senior Nationals will be held at Florida International University's Pharmed Arena this Friday and Saturday.

Please see the following release from the Florida Badminton Association regarding the IX Miami Pan Am International Badminton Tournament:

IX MIAMI PAN AM INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON TOURNAMENT AT SHULA'S ATHLETIC CLUB - MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA - APRIL 19-21, 2007

~U.S. World Champion and Olympian, Howard Bach, to Attend~

Miami Lakes, Florida - The Florida Badminton Association (FBA)

<http://www.flabadminton.org>, in partnership with the Badminton World Federation and USA Badminton, is proud to present the IX Miami Pan Am International Badminton Tournament at Shula's Athletic Club, April 19 – 21.

Howard Bach, part of the 2005 U.S. World Champion doubles team and 2004 Olympian, will play in the tournament. Bach was also a Triple Crown winner at the 2007 U.S. National Championship (singles, doubles, and mixed doubles) and was named one of *People Magazine's* 50 Most Eligible Bachelors in 2004.

This year's field includes over 100 male and female athletes from **North America** (Canada, U.S.); **Europe** (Croatia, Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland); **Asia** (Hong Kong, Thailand); **South America** (Brazil, Peru, Suriname); **the Caribbean** (Trinidad & Tobago) and **Africa** (Algeria).

These athletes will be competing to qualify for the Badminton 2007 World Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

The IX Miami Pan Am International has become one of the top tournaments in the Americas and is only one of two internationally-sanctioned badminton tournaments in the United States.

Badminton is the world's fastest racquet sport; with smashes clocked at over 200 mph. Players must possess superb reflexes and extraordinary stamina to compete at such speeds. Top players have been known to cover up to four miles on the court in a single match.

Admission: Free

Semifinals: Friday, April 20 - 6:00 p.m.

Finals: Saturday, April 21- 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Where: Shula's Athletic Club
15150 Bull Run Road
Miami Lakes, FL 33014
(305) 820-8070

For tournament information and interviews, please contact:

David Zarco - (305) 798-2816
Amy McQuillin - (786) 877-2857

Badminton at Shula's Athletic Club

Shula's Athletic Club has been the home to international level badminton competition since 1988. Under the supervision of Bill Graham, its facility was specially designed to host professional badminton. Bill Graham is the brother of former Senator and Governor of Florida, Bob Graham, and brother-in-law of the Washington Post's Katherine Graham. Bill Graham himself has been playing badminton since the 1930's.

Badminton World Federation - <http://www.internationalbadminton.org>

USA Badminton - <http://www.usabadminton.org>

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