



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MDSC CONTINUES USOC SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM WITH USA TAEKWONDO

MIAMI – The Miami-Dade Sports Commission (MDSC), in partnership with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and USA Taekwondo, will continue the USOC Sportsmanship Program in Miami-Dade County schools on May 24th. In conjunction with the USA Taekwondo National Qualifiers to be held on May 25-27 in Miami, James Howe II will visit Avocado Elementary School. Ms. Lauren Cahoon also visited Amelia Earhart Elementary School on May 17.

James Howe is a 20 year old resident of Miami and former three time member of the Taekwondo Junior National Team. He placed 2nd in the 2007 Senior National Team Trials and 2nd in the 2007 Pan American Team Trials. According to Howe, "The lessons sportsmanship has taught me are lessons I use in my everyday life, on and off the mat. I believe that it is an essential element to ones success, and without it you've not only failed your sport, but yourself as well."

Lauren Cahoon, a 22 year old native of Miami and senior marketing major at the University of Miami also discussed the importance of Sportsmanship and healthy living. She is a member of the United States Taekwondo team, and will represent her country in the middle/heavyweight division at this summer's 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

USA Taekwondo will hold their National Qualifier at Florida International University's Pharmed Arena May 25 – 27, 2007. USA Taekwondo conducts six annual National Qualifier events. These events are qualification events for those athletes interested in competing in the World Class Division at the Junior and Senior Nationals. Each of the top 4 athletes per weight division in the male divisions and the top 3 athletes in the female divisions at each qualifier will qualify for the World Class division at the USA Junior Olympic Taekwondo Championships and the Senior Nationals. In addition, those athletes that qualify for these tournaments also have a chance to qualify for world class international competitions and development camps.

Earlier this year, the MDSC and USOC partnered with USA Judo to promote the Olympic value of "Sportsmanship" to Miami-Dade County middle school students.

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

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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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