

STATE OF THE GAMES

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NATIONAL CONGRESS OF STATE GAMES NEWSLETTER

January 2007

A Letter from the President



Dear State Games Family,

First, I would like to extend my best wishes to all of you for a very successful and healthy New Year! Before you know it we will all be in the midst of our busy season preparing for our Games!

I also wanted to thank the staff at the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation one final time for their efforts with hosting a successful National Conference in Colorado Springs. Tom and his staff did a great job with hosting a fun and beneficial event. I remind everyone to mark their calendars for September 25-28, 2007 when the 2007 convention will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska. Dave Mlnarik and the entire Nebraska crew are already hard at work on plans for what I am sure will be a great event.

Over the last year 14 months that I have served as President, I continue to be amazed at the tremendous volume of programs and work that is produced by minimal sized staffs in State Games organizations across the county. Equally impressive is the passion with which this work is carried out. I commend all of you for the work that you do and ask that you continue to extend some of this passion to the business of the National Congress of State Games. Your elected members that serve on the NCSG board are passionate about the NCSG and are working hard to make this organization viable and strong. I would like to thank all board members for their support and efforts in the time I have served as President. As we are about to enter the year 2007, there are many exciting programs on tap such as the 2007 State Games of America and the inaugural year of Lighten Up America that should bring recognition and benefits to the NCSG. There are also some difficult tasks on the horizon as we struggle for financial stability and make decisions regarding our governance and operation. As we move into the New Year, there will be successes as well as challenges along the way but through it all I wanted to let you know that the entire board is committed to trying to improve this organization. I simply ask that you share some of the passion that you have for your own Games with the NCSG and help us as we strive to make this organization strong, productive and fiscally secure. There is no argument that the NCSG has an obligation to provide services, direction and benefit for its members. I ask that you as members take an active role in helping us to make this happen. This can be done by supporting national initiatives such as LUA of SGA, involving members of your staff on committees and following through on requests for surveys or information that could be beneficial to all members.

Since our National Convention in October our board held its monthly meeting in November and a number of important issues were discussed. A new timeline for board meeting minutes was suggested and approved by the board. Within three weeks of each board meeting, minutes will be prepared, sent to the board for approval and then distributed to the membership. I would like to thank Dave Mlnarik for all of his efforts as secretary in preparing the minutes. I greatly appreciate all of Dave's work!



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I N S I D E S T A T E G A M E S

A Letter from the President cont'd...

The 2007 State Games of America will be held August 2-5, 2007 in Colorado Spring, Colorado. Entry materials for the SGA will be available in January. The NCSG State Games of America Committee has been working with Doug Martin and the Colorado Sports Corporation to review the proposed entry materials and numerous recommendations have been made by the committee to ensure that the 2007 SGA is national in scope and is truly representative of state games organizations across the country. A follow up meeting with Doug and the SGA committee to review the status of these recommendations will be scheduled shortly and the board will have the opportunity to review the materials one final time before they go to print. Please forward contact information on your medal winners to Doug Martin if you have not already done so.

2007 will also mark the inaugural year of the Lighten Up America Program. I would like to personally thank Dave Mlnarik, chairman of the Lighten Up America Advisory Committee as well as committee members Jeff Scully (ME), Suzie Eades (MT), Kat Pileski (MA), Tammi Jewell (VA) and Kyle Case (UT). The committee has been working closely with Jim Hallihan and the Lighten Up America staff in Iowa to determine charter member criteria in LUA and to help make LUA achieve great success. All members will be receiving additional information on LUA shortly. I would also like to personally thank Jim Hallihan, Troy Vincent and the entire Iowa staff for all of their efforts in developing this program and making it available to State Games organizations across the country.

Since the convention in October, there has been much progress made in several areas regarding the National Congress. I have been working closely with i2rd in Nebraska who has graciously offered to host and maintain the NCSG web site at no charge. Most of the updating of the site can be handled internally and i2rd is immediately available should certain updates require their immediate support. Please note that all inquiries regarding web site questions or updates should be brought to my attention at Kevin@baystategames.org or at 781-932-6555.

Progress has also been made with getting a handle on the financial records and accounts for the NCSG. George Milligan has done an outstanding job organizing the finances and we have a clear picture of our financial status and obligations. A budget has also been prepared for 2007 and was approved by the board.

Before the New Year, I will be sending a listing of all existing committee to the membership. I would invite all of you to review this committee list with your staff and encourage your staff members to take an active role on a committee. These committees play an important role in the future success of our organization and we need active committees with dedicated members who truly want to make a difference.

Finally, I wanted to inform all members that the second annual Lighten Up America summit will be held in Ames, Iowa on May 19 & 20. This event was a tremendous success in 2006 with great information and opportunities to gather information which could improve Lighten Up / Shape Up programs in our individual states. Jim and his staff in Iowa are already at work to make the 2007 summit just as beneficial. To save on travel costs we have decided to combine our mid year board meeting with the summit in Ames. The board meeting will be held May 19 from 12pm to 4pm and the Lighten Up summit will begin at 4pm on the 19th and continue all day on the 20th. I would encourage all members of the State Games family that have a Shape Up program or would like to start one to attend this summit. Jim is working on hotels and information will be forwarded after the first of the year. Based upon last year, I can assure you that hotel and auto costs are very reasonable in Ames. Please mark you calendar and make every effort to attend.

Thank you again for your interest and support of the National Congress of State Games. I am honored to serve as your President and look forward to working with all of you during the upcoming year. If you have a question or concern regarding the business of the National Congress, please don't hesitate to contact me at 781-932-6555 or at Kevin@baystategames.org.



Kevin Cummings
President
National Congress of State Games

States incorporate new programs...

AMTRAK & THE STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI PARTNER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR COAST ATHLETES

Amtrak and the State Games of Mississippi are teaming up to raise needed funds to support the Bay Area Youth Soccer Organization (BAYS). BAYS is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing children in Hancock County as well as the cities of Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Kiln, Pass Christian, and Diamondhead with an opportunity to play soccer. The fields and facilities at the BAYS complex were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

To raise funds to rebuild the soccer fields, Amtrak donated 5,000 bracelets imprinted with the campaign's motto - Rebuild, Renew, Compete. The bracelets are available for five dollars each. All funds generated by the sale of the bracelets will go to the BAYS organization.

Amtrak is committed to being a part of the rebuilding process for those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Our hope is that the bracelets offer everyone the opportunity to be a part of that process," said Jerome Trahan, sales and marketing associate for Amtrak. "The bracelets say it all -- rebuild the facilities, renew your spirits, and continue to compete."

"In keeping with our mission to promote healthy lifestyles through athletics, the State Games wanted to find a way to let our Mississippi Gulf Coast athletes know that they have not been forgotten," said Leah Reed, Marketing and Public Relations Director for the State Games. "Of course the rebuilding of homes and businesses is the primary concern, but we felt that our assistance could be used to help restore some normalcy for the children and to keep the spirit of athletics alive. Rebuilding the Bay Area Youth Soccer Organization playing fields was just the project we were seeking."

The BAYS soccer complex was rendered useless following Hurricane Katrina. The 14-foot tidal surge that hit the area buckled the steel and wood building that housed the concession stand, restrooms, referee room, and training/board room, and all of the fields, fencing, lighting, and roadways were destroyed. The electrical power service was ruined along with the water well and irrigation control shed. Due to limited funding for repairs, soccer goals and debris remain entangled in nearby trees. BAYS membership, which numbered more than 550 pre-Katrina, is approximately 350 to 400 this season. However, due to the hurricane damage, all practices and games are being held in communities away from the players' homes.

"After visiting the coast and asking community members what the biggest need was, we found that the number one answer was normalcy," said Reed. "These people have lost so much and just want to get back to doing the activities they used to enjoy. We want to help give the people in this area back a little bit of what they lost."

The State Games of Mississippi desperately needs the support of all State Games members to make this fundraiser a success! A huge thanks to those who have made a major contribution:

Bay State Games
Big Sky State Games
Empire State Games
Iowa Games
Nebraska Sports Council

If you have not already purchased a bracelet or made a donation, The State Games of Mississippi is asking you to do so now. Your support in this effort will help in the rebuilding of new sport facilities and will continue to keep the spirit of athletics alive in the state of Mississippi! For more information on the Bay Area Youth Soccer Organization please visit the State Games of Mississippi website at stategamesofms.org and click on the picture of the blue Rebuild, Renew, Compete armband.



STAR OF THE NORTH FAMILY ECO-ADVENTURE TRIATHLON

The Star of the North Games introduced a new event in 2006, the Family Eco-Adventure Triathlon. This was a team event, with all teams being adults paired with children. The event filled with 50 teams, which was limited by the number of canoes. Contestants cycled 2.5 miles from the Quarry Hill Nature Center in Rochester to Silver Lake. Then teams paddled in canoes for 0.33 miles, cycled back to Quarry Hill, and then finished with a 1.5 mile orienteering course in the park. Finishing times ranged from 49 to over 90 minutes.

States incorporate new programs cont'd...

TEXAS HOLD 'EM STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Kevin McGovern of Lincoln used an aggressive approach--apparently uninfluenced by the lights, television cameras and audience--and walked away with the first-ever Nebraska Texas Hold 'Em State Championship. The finals were held Saturday at Heidelberg's South in Lincoln with 169 qualifiers from across Nebraska vying for the title.

Other final-table participants included Todd Cerny of Hastings, Fernando Segura of Kearney, David Stenwall of South Sioux City, Josh Saathoff of Grand Island, Angie Hauser of North Platte, Craig Manson of Denton and Rick Dodge of Dewitt, who finished as the runner-up. McGovern gained the advantage on Dodge, who entered the final table as the overwhelming chip leader, going all-in with ace-eight. Dodge lost the hand with ace-seven as neither player improved with the community cards.

"It feels great to win the first one," McGovern said, adding "there are a lot of great players in Nebraska, but today was my day. I just hung in there, folded when I should have and got some good cards there at the end. (The tournament) was a lot of fun, and it was all for a good cause."

All proceeds from the tournament--more than \$30,000 including sponsorships--will benefit the Nebraska Sports Council, which conducts the Cornhusker State Games and N-Lighten Nebraska. Brew City Appetizers and Double Eagle Beverage were the tournament sponsors.

As if the overall turnout wasn't enough, a pair of hearty players proved that the Texas Hold 'Em bug is in full force in Nebraska. Zelda Gallagher, of Inman, who qualified in a local preliminary in O'Neill, made it to the tournament despite having gallbladder removal surgery the day before. Eric Betancur of Mitchell drove 430 miles, only to be among the first players eliminated, lasting less than one hour into the tourney.

Action from the final table, along with footage and interviews from throughout the tournament, will be featured in a television program to be aired on Time Warner's Nebraska-On-Demand network, located on channel 101 on its digital tier. A custom-built pocket-camera table was used for filming so viewers can see players' cards as the hands play out.

More details, including photos from the tournament, can be found at NebraskaSportsCouncil.com.

SUNFLOWER STATE GAMES ADDS 2 NEW EVENTS

The Sunflower State Games will host two new events in the spring of 2007. The focus of the two new events is to promote the Summer Sunflower State Games while providing more opportunities for Kansans to enjoy athletics and physical fitness. A Spring Fever Weekend and a USA Jr. Olympics Skills Competition will both be held in Topeka.

The Spring Fever Weekend will include a 4-Man Scramble Golf Tournament, a Co-Ed Softball Tournament and an Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. The event will coincide with the release of the 2007 Entry Books and encourage athletes to look forward to the Summer Games. Spring Fever will be held on April 13-15 of 2007.

The Sunflower State Games will host a local qualifying soccer event for the USA Jr. Olympics Skills Competition. This event will give young soccer players a fun opportunity to test their individual skills and the possibility of advancing to advance to a Regional Competition. The competition will be held April 7 & 21 of 2007.

THE SUNFLOWER STATE GAMES ANNOUNCES ANNUAL ELEMENTARY ESSAY CONTEST

The Sunflower State Games, a statewide amateur sports festival for Kansans of all ages and skill levels, is pleased to announce the topics and the deadline for the 2007 Healthy Lifestyle Essay Contest.

All Kansas Elementary School Students are invited to enter the annual contest. The contest asks first through third graders to write 100-150 words explaining the importance of eating a healthy breakfast. Third through sixth graders will write 150-300 words stating a healthy role model in their life any why.

The deadline for the contest is April 6, 2007. Entries may be faxed or mailed to the Sunflower State Games office.

Winners receive a Sunflower State Games Gold Medal, an official Sunflower State Games t-shirt, a Barnes and Noble gift certificate and a \$50 savings bond. Additionally, the winners are invited to read his or her essay at the Sunflower State Games V.I.P. Reception on July 12, 2007.

States incorporate new programs cont'd...

SHOW-ME STATE GAMES PRESENTS THE HOORAH! SPORTS CHALLENGE AT FT. LEONARD WOOD

The Show-Me STATE GAMES and the Pulaski County Tourism Bureau are please to announce that the Show-Me STATE GAMES will present the Hooah! Sports Challenge at Ft. Leonard Wood, April 27th-29th of 2007. The three-day event will provide athletes a chance to play their favorite sports in the fine facilities the U.S. Army base at Ft. Leonard Wood has to offer. Basketball, Dodgeball, Trap & Skeet, 3D Archery, Bowling, Golf, Paint Ball and a cross-country marathon are among the list of sports that will be offered.

For those of you who are not familiar with the term "hooah", hooah is an expression of high morale, strength and confidence used by all branches of the U.S. Military, although the Marines pronounce it as "OohRah." When powered by an overwhelmingly proud, and usually loud, tone of voice, hooah seems to stomp out any possibility of being bound by the written word. It applies not only to the letter of what was said, but to the spirit of what was said."

The Show-Me STATE GAMES is looking forward to the opportunity and Andy Thiem, Director of the Pulaski Co. Tourism Bureau, says, "We recognize the significant economic impact of the GAMES and are very happy to have the SMSG come to Ft. Leonard Wood and present the Hooah! Sports Challenge."

SE SPORTS FESTIVAL, FSF, ANNOUNCES SUNSHINE STATE GAMES ALUMNI AS SPOKESPERSONS

The Florida Sports Foundation honored former Sunshine State Games athletes, Garrett Johnson and Jennifer Rodriguez, who have gone on to bigger and better things in their chosen sports, as Spokespersons for the 2006 Summer Games.

The 2006 Summer Games were held June 15-18 in Miami-Dade County with over 5,000 of Florida's finest amateur athletes competing in 25 sports.

As spokespersons for the 27th Annual Summer Games, Johnson and Rodriguez will make selected appearances during the four days of competition, share stories of their

SE Sports Festival cont'd...

Sunshine State Games experience in published articles, promote Sunshine State Games participation in the media and educate the public about the Games.

Johnson, 22, is a Tampa native and is a graduate student in the public administration program at Florida State University and an All-American discus thrower on the National Championship Track & Field team. He won Sunshine State Games gold medals in the discus and shot put between 1994 and 2000 in a variety of age groups.

Besides his athletic accomplishments at Florida State, he was one of only 32 college students from around the United States who were chosen for the 2006 Rhodes scholarship.

His track & field honors include being the 2006 NCAA Indoor Shot Put National Champion, a Two-time All-American (2005 and 2006: Indoor Shot put) and 2005 ESPN Academic All-American (second team). He holds three FSU records in shot put and discus and in 2005 earned the title of "Top shot putter in school history," throwing 67 feet 0.75 inches at the USA Senior Track and Field Championships.

Johnson remembers his Sunshine State Games experience as, a fun event and a sport carnival. "The Sunshine State Games promote sport and a healthy lifestyle," he said. "Sports harness power and are a great platform for Florida athletes. It is a great way to improve a community through sport."

Rodriguez, 29, first honed her athletic skills at Florida's Sunshine State Games, where she competed from 1983-1987 and 1990-1992. She has fond memories of her days as a medal-winning in-line roller speedskater.

Rodriguez said the Games provided her with valuable experience as an athlete that helped her on her present path. "In any competition, the more you participate, the more experience you gain," Rodriguez said. "I believe my participation in the Games properly prepared me for my future athletic endeavors."

Rodriguez parlayed her experience from the Sunshine State Games into a second place finish at the 1992 World Roller Figure Skating Championships and a World Championship at the 1993 In-Line Speedskating Championship. She learned to ice skate in just three months time in 1996 and made the US National team. Rodriguez, who competed in the 1998, 2002 and 2006 Winter Olympics, has become one of America's most decorated ice speedskaters, winning two bronze medals at the 2002 Olympic Games.

States incorporate new programs cont'd...

MAINE ANNOUNCES TRAVIS ROY COURAGE AWARD

The Maine Games is announcing the creation of the Travis Roy Courage Award. This award will be presented annually to a Maine Games athlete who personifies uncommon courage and who has overcome tremendous odds to compete in their favorite sport and to take part in the Maine Games.

"I am truly honored to have this award presented in my name. The State of Maine will always be home to me. I'm proud to be from Maine. We all are a product of our environment. I believe much of my success comes directly from the people I grew up with." ~Travis Roy

Travis Roy was put on ice skates at just 20 months old. As years passed, his love for the game of hockey became a passion. In the fall of 1995, Travis accomplished one of his goals by earning a scholarship to Boston University to become a member of the reigning NCAA Men's Ice Hockey Championship team.

At twenty years of age, he entered his first collegiate hockey game. Eleven seconds into his first shift, his life changed forever. Travis crashed into the boards and cracked his fourth and fifth cervical vertebra, paralyzing him from the neck down.

Despite this twist of fate, Travis has continued to persevere and defy the odds. With an intense rehabilitation regime, he has regained some movement in his right arm. While coming to grips with his life as a quadriplegic, Travis returned to Boston University less than a year after his accident; four years later, he graduated with a degree in Communications.

In 1997, Travis wrote his autobiography with Sports Illustrated E.M. Swift. Titled *Eleven Seconds* the book chronicles his accident, his rehabilitation, and his triumph over personal tragedy. *Eleven Seconds* was recently updated with an Afterword Chapter and is currently in its sixth printing.

In over a half-century of BU Ice Hockey, the team has produced All-Americans, Olympians and NHL professionals, but only one jersey has ever been retired. On October 30, 1999, Travis Roy's #24 was hoisted to the rafters of Walter Brown Arena and retired from play.

Travis is now an advocate for spinal cord research and has spoken at a variety of events, including testifying at a Senate Committee hearing for the National Institute of Health in Washington, D.C. In 1997, he established the Travis Roy Foundation (www.travisroyfoundation.org) that focuses on finding a cure for spinal cord injuries and provides grants to help spinal cord survivors purchase costly adaptive equipment.

Travis currently resides in Boston, Massachusetts; he spends his summers with his family on Lake Champlain in Vermont. Travis can also be found supporting his Terriers at BU hockey games, or with a paint brush in his mouth, creating his latest work of art.

VIRGINIA AMATEUR SPORTS RECOGNIZED

Virginia Amateur Sports, (VAS) founder and organizer of the Coventry Commonwealth Games of Virginia was recently recognized by the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce as the 2006 Small Business of the Year in the area of Not-for-Profit Health and Human Services Category. VAS was selected from 13 other non-profit organizations in the same category during the Awards Dinner that was held at Hotel Roanoke.

Southern Health/Coventry Health Care enters the second year of its title sponsorship of the Commonwealth Games of Virginia, officially known as the Coventry Commonwealth Games of Virginia. Southern Health Coventry has been a sponsor of the Games for the past 3 years starting as a gold medal sponsor in 2004 and as the title sponsor of the opening ceremonies in 2005. Dr. Elizabeth Lee, chairman of the Virginia Amateur Sports Board of Directors, says, "the joining of the two organizations that strive to meet the health care and physical fitness of Virginia's citizens will inspire all Virginians to strive for excellence and to lead and follow a healthy lifestyle."

Dominique Dawes, USA Olympic Gold Medallist Gymnast was our keynote speaker at our VIP/Sponsors Reception and at our opening ceremonies this year. During the ceremonies, Dominique was asked to interact with 3 "lucky winners" in performing in a predetermined gymnastics event that included a walk on the balance beam, a few summersaults, a handstand and then a "free jump" on the trampoline. The athletes, their family members and friends were energized by Dominique's performance and words of encouragement as well as her participation with the 3 lucky winners that were chosen at random from the audience. It was an exciting evening for everyone and it set the tone for a very successful 2006 Coventry Commonwealth Games of Virginia that included 50 sports and over 9,000 athletes.

Plans are being made to implement our first ever Virginia's Fit Kids program this year. This program is the youth component of Lighten Up Virginia and encourages youth teams (school classes, 4-H Clubs, aft school programs, church groups, etc) to increase their individual; physical activity levels in an accumulated minutes contest. Fit Kids is a free 4 month competition for Virginia kids from January 24 - May 16 based on accumulated physical activity minutes. Teams are made up of 5-30 members. Teams that average 2,250 minutes per team member for the 4 month program will qualify for the monetary awards at the conclusion of the program. (3 - \$500 checks will be awarded).

STATE GAMES EVENT DATES

2007 SUMMER DATES:

Alabama Sports Festival (25th Anniversary) - June 29-July 1, Birmingham, AL
Rocky Mountain State Games - August 2 - 5
Sunshine State Games - Summer Games - June 9-10 & 14-17
 Sunshine State Games Sport Shooting Championships - April - May
 Sunshine State Games Figure Skating Championships - May 18 - 20
 Sunshine State Games Artistic Roller-skating Championships - May 27 - 28
 Sunshine State Games Inline Hockey Championships - June 8-10
 Sunshine State Games - Flag Football State Championships & Open Invitational Tournament - June 9-10
 Sunshine State Games / ASA Slow Pitch Softball State Championships - July 14-15
 Sunshine State Games Water Polo Championships - July 20-22
Iowa Summer Games - July 12-15 & July 20-22
Sunflower State Games - July 13-15 & July 20-22
Maine Games - June 22-24
Bay State Summer Games - July 9 - July 22
Star of the North Summer Games - June 15-17 & 22-24, Rochester, MN
State Games of Mississippi Summer Games - June 15-17 and 20-24
Show-Me STATE GAMES Finals - July 20-22, July 27-29, August 3-5
Big Sky State Games - July 20 - 22
Cornhusker State Games July 20-29
Sooner State Games - June
Keystone Summer Games - July 24-29, York City
Utah Summer Games - June 7 - 24
State Games of America - August 2 - 5

2007 WINTER DATES:

Iowa Winter Games - February 2-4 & February 10-11
Bay State Winter Games - February 2 - February 4
Sooner Winter Games - January 27-28 & February 4-5
Keystone Winter Games Skating - January 26-28
Keystone Winter Games Indoor Field Hockey - February 17-19
Keystone Winter Games Indoor Soccer - March 3-4

2007 LIGHTEN UP DATES:

Lighten Up Iowa - January 10 - May 10
Lighten ME! January 22 - May 2
Mass Shape Up: January 15 - May 15
Shape Up Missouri - January 22 - April 16
Shape Up Montana - February 1 - May 1
N-Lighten Nebraska February 1 - May 1
Lighten Up Oklahoma - January 10 - May 2
Shape up PA, February 7 - June 27
Lighten Up America - January 10 - May 10

OTHER EVENT DATES:

Iowa Net Fest Volleyball Tournament - January 6
Iowa Go the Distance - January 17 - May 2
Fish Iowa Games - Spring 2007
Iowa Go the Distance Day - May 3
Iowa Hoopin' at the Dome - May 5
Iowa Games Golf Classic - Late August, Early September
Iowa Net Fest Basketball Tournament - November 24
Missouri State Senior Games - June 7-10, 2007

STATE GAMES SNAP SHOTS



John Register, the AOY keynote speaker at the 2007 NCSG Symposium in Colorado Springs.



Some of the 2006 NCSG Symposium attendees.



2006 Maine Games



2006 Iowa Games



The 2006 State Games of Mississippi Opening Ceremony.



2006 Bay State Games



Paul Weinberg, the 2005 Alabama Sports Festival Male Athlete of the Year, carrying the torch at the 2006 ASF Opening Ceremony.



A high jumper from the Utah Summer Games.



For the 25th Anniversary of the Keystone State Games, an athlete t-shirt and poster from every year was displayed at registration.

ALL IN THE STATE GAMES FAMILY...

THE NEW ADDITIONS...

IOWA

Cory Kennedy (B.A. - Exercise Science, Buena Vista University; M.S. - Sport Administration, University of Northern Colorado) - Event Coordinator, joined the Iowa Sports Foundation staff in September.

Sarah Tompkins (B.A. - Psychology, Wartburg College; M.P.H., University of Iowa) - Lighten Up America Coordinator, joined the Iowa Sports Foundation staff in September.

Kelley Haaland (B.S. - Health and Human Performance, Iowa State University) - Youth Health Initiatives Coordinator, joined the Iowa Sports Foundation staff in October.

FLORIDA

The Florida Sports Foundation hired **Bryan Campbell** in August as an event coordinator on the Events Staff. Bryan previously served as an intern for the Georgia Games and is a graduate of Georgia Southern University.

KANSAS

Mitch Gross became the Executive Director in June 2006. Mitch previously held the title of Recreation Programmer for Shawnee County Parks and Recreation. He was born and raised in Hays, Kan. and graduated from Fort Hays State University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Recreation Management. He and his wife Shanna have an 8-month old son Patrick.



Kayla Manzel started as the Director of Operations in Sept. 2006. She was a Sports Intern for the 2006 Games. She is originally from Bellevue, Neb and graduated from The University of Kansas in August 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development and Family Life.

MISSOURI

Larry Luetjen, Shape Up Missouri Coordinator and Asst. Director of Development, was hired in July of 2006. Mr. Luetjen has been a High School Teacher, Coach and Principal for the past 24 years. Larry is also an Adjunct Professor for graduate classes at William Woods University and is getting re-certified as a basketball referee in the State of Missouri. The Show-Me STATE GAMES is very pleased to have someone with his experience and competitive spirit join the SMSG team.



DID YOU KNOW...

~ **Jim Hallihan** of the Iowa Games completed a 100 mile 1 day bike ride for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in Whitefish, Montana just outside of Glacier National Park.

~ **Nick Gandy** of the Florida Sports Foundation served as the Defensive Coordinator for his son Grant's 9-10 year old flag football team.

~ **Lori Judge, Kim Nanke, and Deborah Martinez** of the Iowa Games participated in the annual Run for the Roses 5K race benefiting arthritis research.

~ Star of the North Games director **Barclay Kruse** ran the Akron Marathon on September 30, finishing in 3:43, and meeting his goal of qualifying for the Boston Marathon (for the fifth time.)

~ **Jessica Klem** of the Rocky Mountain State Games competed in her first triathlon, the Longmont Twin Lakes Triathlon, in June.

~ **Sarah Tompkins** of the Iowa Games participated in the Living History Farms 10K.



Can you name this State Games Executive Director?

In 2006 the staff of the Utah Summer Games decided that they were all going to participate in some way during the State Games.

Steve Ahlgreen participated in the bowling competition. **Jeannine Davis** competed in the 10K and took Gold in her division. Last but not least, **Kyle Case** gave it his all in the diving competition where he won silver in his age group!

It's in the hands of the Utah Summer Games participants as to which sport Kyle will compete in at the 2007 Games.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE....

Cory Kennedy of the Iowa Games got engaged in December of 2005.

Kim Nanke of the Iowa Games got engaged in August 2006.

Eric Engelbarts of the Alabama Sports Festival married Suzanne on September 16, 2006.

Brad Schmitt of the Sooner State Games was married on May 20, 2006

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS
EDITION OF THE NCSG
NEWSLETTER!**

**YOUR INPUT IS GREATLY
APPRECIATED!**



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