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NEWS RELEASE

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

COA Basketball Championships Bound for Fresno; Four-day championship at Selland Arena caps inaugural Festival

Sacramento, CA . . . The California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics (COA) Men and Women's Basketball Championships presented by U.S. Bank will be held March 9-12 at Selland Arena in Fresno, CA. The event will mark the close of the inaugural COA Championship Festival, a concept in which all of the COA's fall championship contests are competed in the Fresno region.

The basketball championships feature the eight men's teams and eight women's teams that advance through the COA playoff format, which begins February 22. The championship event is single elimination, beginning Thursday March 9 with women's quarterfinals at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 p.m. The men's quarterfinals begin on Friday March 10 at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 p.m. Semifinal games take place on Saturday March 11, with women's games at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. and men's games at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. The women's championship game begins at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday March 12, followed by the men's championship at 3:30 p.m. The quarterfinal schedule will be released on March 5 at www.coasports.org.

Tickets for the championships are \$10 per day or \$24 for a tournament pass. An \$8 ticket for identified students, senior citizens, and children under 12 year of age is also available. Tickets may be purchased on game day at the Selland Arena box office.

In conjunction with the championships, the California Community College Women's Basketball Coaches Association (CCCWBCA) and the California Community College Men's Basketball Coaches Association (CCCMBCA) will host free clinics at Fresno City College on Wednesday March 8 (4:00-5:30p.m.) and Thursday March 9 (5:00-6:00 p.m.) with Fresno area Boys and Girls Clubs.

The COA basketball championships boast a rich tradition of elite athletes, coaches, and premier competition. In 2005, Fresno City College, with a 34-0 record, became the third team in California community college history to win the men's basketball championship by going undefeated. Compton College was previously the last team to go undefeated, winning the state championship in 1970 with a 33-0 record. Riverside Community College, under Jerry Tarkanian, was the first in 1964 when the Tigers were 35-0. The Cypress College women's team, seeded fourth in the state championship, capped a tremendous playoff run with a 69-65 victory over Pasadena City College in 2005.

The Festival has already been designated a tremendous success by COA officials on the heels of first-time events such as student-athlete banquets for women's golf, women and men's water polo, and women and men's soccer competitors. The sports of golf, water polo, women's volleyball, soccer, and wrestling provided free clinics to Fresno-area youth. The teams involved in the state football championship visited Children's Hospital Central California on the day prior to the title game.

“It’s the events that go beyond a win or a loss that will leave a positive lasting impression on these young men and women,” said COA Executive Director Carlyle Carter. “The objective of the Festival was to enhance the experience of the student-athletes, not only with events in and around competition, but by creating activities that emphasize community involvement and goodwill.”

The California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics Women's Golf Championship Presented by U.S. Bank marked the official opening of the Festival, during which over 1,500 student athletes will compete in twelve state championship events over eleven days of competition throughout the Fresno region in November and December 2005, and March 2006.

The Festival concept evolved from the efforts of the COA Management Council Subcommittee on Championship Site Selection. The committee comprised of COA management council representatives, COA sport coach’s association representatives, and COA staff, was charged with the task of developing standards and procedures for the COA’s championship site selection process.

To view the latest news, information, and updates of all 23 COA-sanctioned sports, and for comprehensive COA Basketball Championship information, visit www.coasports.org.

Remaining COA Championship Festival Schedule

Date	Event	Venue	Time
March 8, 2006	CCCWBCA Clinic w/ Fresno Boys & Girls Club	Fresno City College	4:00-5:30 p.m.
March 9, 2006	Women’s Shoot Around	Selland Arena	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
March 9, 2006	Women’s Quarterfinals	Selland Arena	1:00, 3:00, 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
March 9, 2006	CCCMBCA Clinic w/ Fresno Boys & Girls Club	Fresno City College	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
March 10, 2006	Men’s Shoot Around	Selland Arena	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
March 10, 2006	Men’s Quarterfinals	Selland Arena	1:00, 3:00, 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
March 11, 2006	Women’s Semifinals	Selland Arena	1:00 and 3:00 p.m.
March 11, 2006	Men’s Quarterfinals	Selland Arena	5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
March 12, 2006	Women’s Championship	Selland Arena	1:00 p.m.
March 12, 2006	Men’s Championship	Selland Arena	3:30 p.m.

COA