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Contact: **Melanie Fortier**
Jeffrey/Scott Advertising
559.268.9741

Kelly Carr
Fresno Sports Council
559.307.7441

David Eadie
Sports Information Director-COA
916.444.1699

**NEWLY FORMED FRESNO SPORTS COUNCIL
WINS BID FOR COA FALL FESTIVAL TO FRESNO**

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA – (January 28, 2005) – The Commission on Athletics (COA) is proud to announce that the Fresno Sports Council and the City of Fresno will host the inaugural COA Fall Championship Festival in 2005 and State Basketball Championships in 2006.

The COA and Fresno Sports Council have reached a three-year agreement where eight community college sports will hold their annual championships in the Fresno area.

The Fresno Sports Council's bid was selected over several other cities and regions across the state including: San Diego, Anaheim/Orange County, Sacramento/Placer, Ontario/San Bernardino, Stockton, Visalia and Redding.

"The COA is delighted with the selection of Fresno as host of this inaugural championship festival," said Dr. Joanne Fortunato, COA Commissioner. "It is going to be a wonderful experience for community college student athletes and we are tremendously excited about working with the region to enhance the quality of experience of COA student athletes at our state championships."

The COA subcommittee ranked potential sites on a variety of criteria, such as location, quality of venues, community support and financial incentive.

The COA Management Council Subcommittee on Championship Site Selection chose Fresno because:

- The venues and facilities proposed by the Fresno Sports Council meet or exceed the standards established by the committee and are easily accessible from a centralized 'festival headquarters'.
- Fresno's centralized location provides easy access for teams from both Northern and Southern California.
- Fresno has a rich history of California community college support, and in recent years has hosted the COA Basketball Championships, COA Cross Country Championships, COA Baseball Championships, COA Tennis Championships, COA Football Championship, COA Fastpitch Softball Championship, as well as numerous COA regional post-conference events.
- The relationship between Fresno City College and area K-12 schools, a particularly important piece with the proposed 'Adopt-A-Team' program that will be part of the inaugural festival.
- The Fresno Sports Council and the City of Fresno offer tremendous resources to enhance the festival experience for the student-athlete, including centralized housing support and marketing support.

The COA Fall Championship Festival will consist of women's golf, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's water polo, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, wrestling and football. Rounding out the events will be the men's and women's State Basketball Championships in March of 2006.

Each of the sporting events will be played at various locations throughout Fresno including Selland Arena, Valdez Hall, Grizzlies Stadium, Fresno City College, Woodward Park and others.

In 2004, The Fresno Sports Council was created as a non-profit organization managed by SMG for the City of Fresno, with the goal of attracting sporting events at the youth, collegiate and professional levels to the Fresno area.

The Fresno Sports Council is managed by Kelly Carr, who has assembled an impressive board of directors consisting of 10 appointed members from city institutions as well as private citizens. Members of the board are: Roger Montero, Deputy Mayor, City of Fresno; Mike Dages, Fresno City Council; Ben Ewell, Fresno Convention & Visitors Bureau; Pat Filippone, Fresno Grizzlies; Scott Johnson, Fresno State Athletic Department; Randy Rowe, State Center Community College District; Dennis Janzen; Fresno Pacific University; Jennifer Alcorn, professional boxer; Dr. Jim Drake, cardiologist; and David Jackson, a local farmer.