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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 Championship Festival Heads Into Busiest Weekend; Five team champions to be crowned in Fresno

Sacramento, CA . . . The California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics' (COA) 2005-06 COA Championship Festival Presented by U.S. Bank will host five championships, four community outreach events and over one dozen related auxiliary events December 9-11 in Fresno, CA.

California's top football, wrestling, women's volleyball, women's soccer and men's soccer teams will contend for a state championship in what is fast becoming known as "Title Town" for California community college athletics, Fresno, CA.

The California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics Women's Golf Championship Presented by U.S. Bank on November 14 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 continued November 18-19 when the women and men's cross country championships and women and men's water polo championships rolled into Fresno.

The Festival has already been designated a rousing success by COA officials on the heels of first time events such as student-athlete banquets for women's golf and women and men's water polo competitors, free golf and water polo youth clinics for Fresno-area children, and a post-run cross country barbeque that led to pick-up soccer games and impromptu singing contests.

"One of the significant achievements of the inaugural Festival is the opportunity for our student athletes to spend time with each other away from the competitive arena, get to know one another, and develop new friendships," said COA Associate Executive Director Stu Van Horn. "The clinics, barbeque's, banquets, and visitations exemplify our continued commitment to enhance the experience of student athletes and decrease the focus solely based on competitive outcomes. We are on to something big here, and we look forward to continuing the fall festival for many years to come, and developing a spring festival by 2008."

The women and men's basketball championships held March 9-12, 2006, will close out the first year of the Championship Festival at Fresno's Selland Arena.

The Festival concept evolved from the efforts of the COA Management Council Subcommittee on Championship Site Selection. The committee, comprised of COA staff, COA management council representatives and COA sport coach's association representatives, 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 Championship Festival information, visit www.coasports.org.

COA Championship Festival Competition Schedule

Date	Sport	Venue
November 14-15, 2005	Women's Golf	Riverside Golf Course
November 18-19, 2005	Men's & Women's Water Polo	Central East Aquatics Complex
November 19, 2005	Men's & Women's Cross Country	Woodward Park
December 8-10, 2005	Wrestling	Fresno City College
December 9-11, 2005	Women's Volleyball	Selland Arena
December 10-11, 2005	Men's & Women's Soccer	Fresno Pacific University
December 10, 2005	Football	Grizzlies Stadium
March 9-12, 2006	Men's & Women's Basketball	Selland Arena

COA Championship Festival Non-Competition Event Schedule

Date	Event	Venue
November 13, 2005	Youth Golf Clinic	Riverside Golf Course, 12-2 p.m.
November 19, 2005	Youth Water Polo Clinic	Central East Aquatics Complex, 8:30-9:45 a.m.
December 8, 2005	Adopt-A-Team Visitations for Women's Volleyball Showcase	Selland Arena, 5-8 p.m.
December 8, 2005	Youth Wrestling Clinic	Fresno City College Gymnasium 6:30 p.m.
December 9, 2005	Football Teams Visit Children's Hospital	Valley Children's Hospital, 2-6:30 p.m.
December 10, 2005	TOPSoccer Clinic and Adopt-A-Team Event	Fresno Pacific University, 12-1:30 p.m.
March 8, 2006	Youth Basketball Clinic	Selland Arena, 1-7 p.m.
March 9, 2006	Youth Basketball Clinic	Fresno City College, 5-6 p.m.

COA