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FORMER OLYMPIAN FEATURED IN BAY STATE SKATE

Russian National Champion Alexander Abt to perform with local skaters

WOBURN-The Bay State Games announced today that Alexander Abt, the 2003 Russian National Champion in Men's Figure Skating, will be the feature performer at the 2006 Bay State Winter Games Figure Skating Show held on Saturday, January 28 at 7:30pm at the Williams College Skating Rink in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

30-year-old Abt was born in Moscow, Russia and began skating at the age of 5. Alexander had success at an early age, winning the Silver medal at the Junior World Championships at the age of 15. Alexander has competed in numerous Russian National Championships winning the Bronze in 2001, the Silver in 2002, and Gold in 2003. He finished in two Skate America Championships placing 3rd in 2001 and 2nd in 2002. Abt also competed in two World Championships placing 9th in 2001 and 4th in 2002. Alexander was a member of the Russian Figure Skating team that participated in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah where he placed 5th. Alexander is connected to the Bay State as he currently trains and lives in Massachusetts.

“The Bay State Games Figure Skating Show has had a long tradition of featuring skaters who have performed at the Olympics and the World Championship stage,” said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. “Past performers in the Bay Skate Games Figure Skating show have included Olympic skaters Nancy Kerrigan, Paul Wylie, Surya Bonaly and Sylvia Fontana. Alexander Abt brings the same Olympic and World credentials of these other feature skaters and we are very excited that he has agreed to perform in the Berkshires. We are looking forward to a great show.”

Tickets for the 2006 Bay State Skate Figure Skating Show are still available and can be purchased at numerous locations in the Berkshires including the Berkshire Visitors Bureau, Smith Brothers McAndrews Insurance in Adams, the Vietnam Skating Rink in North Adams, the Williamstown Savings Bank, and Where'd you get that? located on Main Street in Williamstown. Tickets can also be purchased at the Williams College Skating rink during competition on January 27 & 28 or by calling the Games office at (781) 932-6555.

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