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2006 BAY STATE WINTER GAMES KICKS-OFF WITH FIGURE SKATING
USFSA Figure Skating begins the weekend competition

WILLIAMSTOWN, MA- A mix of excitement and cold air filled the Williams College Skating Rink today for the first day of the 2006 Bay State Winter Games. The United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA) was the first to get a chance to showcase their talents to judges, volunteers, families, and members of the Berkshires' community. Clinching the Juvenile Girls Group 1 competition was Layla Siraj (Brookline, MA), Tegan O'Neill (Stamford, MA), was the winner for the Juvenile Girls Group 2, and Elisa McNamara (Burlington, MA) was victorious in the Juvenile Girls Group 3. The Intermediate level was next with Aimee Buchanan (Lexington, MA) winning for the Ladies Short Program. The final event had Erin O'Brien (Rockland, MA) placing first in the Novice Short Program.

The Commonwealth Figure Skating Club had an impressive night as three of their athletes were recognized for their examples of what Sportsmanship is all about. Kelly Madigan (Milton, MA) was a 2005 Bay State Games Gold Medalist who recently came back from a leg injury and worked very hard to prepare herself for the 2006 Bay State Games. Unfortunately, Kelly suffered a concussion on Tuesday night and therefore was not able to compete today. Despite her injury, Kelly made the trip to the Berkshires to cheer on her fellow Commonwealth Figure Skating Club members. Jaimee Fernald was also recognized for her sportsmanship as she was noted for always being appreciative of others, her immense generosity, and her complimentary attitude towards other skaters. Stephanie Smolesnki (Cranston, RI) showed great poise as she took a hard fall during her routine, composed herself, and bounced back up to finished her program. Stephanie showed true grace as she did not allow her fall to distract her from the competition.

USFSA Figure Skating will be back in action Saturday, January 28 between 8:00am-3:00pm. For more information regarding scheduling for Figure Skating, Masters Ice Hockey, and Alpine Skiing, please visit www.baystategames.org/winter.

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