

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 17, 2006  
**CONTACT:** Katy Sullivan, Director of Communications  
(781) 932-6555, [Katy@baystategames.org](mailto:Katy@baystategames.org)

**ATHLETES REWARDED FOR MORE THAN ATHLETICS**

*The New Balance Sportsmanship Initiative recognized exceptional participants*

**WOBURN, MA-**The Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation (MASF) wrapped up the 2006 Bay State Winter Games January 29<sup>th</sup> in the Berkshires. Competitions were held in Figure Skating, Alpine Skiing, and Masters Ice Hockey. Throughout the three day event, athletes were rewarded with the Bay State Games /New Balance Sportsmanship Initiative for showing respect, maturity, and discipline.

New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc. and the MASF are proud of the continuation of the Bay State Games/New Balance Sportsmanship Initiative. The Initiative was first implemented at the 2002 Bay State Summer Games and has continued in subsequent the Summer and Winter Games. The Initiative has had a positive visual impact on the level of good sportsmanship demonstrated and practiced during the Games.

Three athletes were brought forward for their good sportsmanship at the first day of the Figure Skating competition. Kelly Madigan (Milton, MA), a 2005 Bay State Games Gold Medalist, recently came back from a leg injury to prepare herself for the 2006 Bay State Games. Unfortunately, Kelly suffered a concussion Tuesday before the Games and was not able to compete. Kelly showed great sportsmanship by making the trip to the Berkshires to cheer on her fellow Commonwealth Figure Skating Club members despite her injury. Jaimee Fernald was another sportsmanship winner, as she was noted for being appreciative of others, having immense generosity, and a 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 complete her program. Stephanie showed true grace as she did not allow her fall to distract her from the competition.

During the second day of Figure Skating, Alexandra Hill (Adams, MA), a USFSA skater in the Pre-Juvenile division, was praised for her sportsmanship. Alexandra suffered a hard fall in the last moments of her warm-up, which can cause some athletes to lose concentration. Instead of giving up, Alexandra collected herself and did honor to her program and herself. Eleven-year-old Lucia Montalvo (Chicopee, MA), who received a Bronze Medal at the 2005 State Games of America, was the second skater whose sportsmanship was noticed on Saturday. Jillian Langone (Wilmington, MA) received two honors with being recognized for her sportsmanship as well as winning the Gold Medal in the Intermediate Ladies division. Also on Saturday, a very special

sportsmanship award went to Meredith Joyce (Hollis, NH) and her father. Meredith's coach unfortunately could not make it to the competition, and her dad willingly stepped in as her temporary coach. Meredith's dad stood proudly as the only male in a waiting box filled with moms and daughters throughout Meredith's routine. The interplay between father and daughter was noted by the rink monitor who commended the two for their behaviors.

In the Masters Ice Hockey Over 40 division, the Greenfield Blades, who finished their weekend with a record of 1-1-1, were praised by officials for their sportsmanship. Also acknowledged in the Over 50 division was hometown team Berkshire Blizzard, who finished the Games with a record of 0-2-1 but kept their spirits and sportsmanship up throughout the weekend.

For complete results from the 2006 Bay State Winter Games, please visit [www.baystategames.org/winter/results](http://www.baystategames.org/winter/results).

*~end~*