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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IL RESIDENTS WELCOME TO COMPETE IN BORDERING STATE GAMES

With the Prairie State Games On A Break, Neighboring States Welcome Participants Until the IL Games Return

January 6, 2009 – Madison, WI – the American Family Insurance Badger State Winter Games (Wisconsin) along with the Iowa Winter Games have agreed to welcome residents of Illinois and the Prairie State Games to participate in neighboring State Games.

“The goal of the National Congress of State Games would be to hopefully see a return of State Games in the State of Illinois,” said Barclay Kruse, President of the Board of Directors for the National Congress of State Games. “Until that happens, however, it’s important that Illinois athletes have the opportunity to enjoy the State Games experience, and to have a pathway to qualify for the State Games of America.”

“The opportunity to participate in amateur athletics is important,” said Ron Vincent, Chief Executive Officer of the Wisconsin Sports Development Corporation, the owner of the American Family Insurance Badger State Games. “We hope Illinois residents will get the Prairie State Games back soon, but until then, we are happy to partner with other neighboring states and give those athletes a venue in which to compete.”

Out-of-state athletes competing in the Badger State Games will not displace a Wisconsin Resident from advancing to the State Games of America. Similar practices will be held by other states. For information on rules and regulations of competition, please contact each individual state.

**American Family Insurance Badger Winter State Games
(Wisconsin)**

January 24th – February 8th, 2009

Wausau, WI

www.badgerstategames.org

info@sportsinwisconsin.com

608.226.4780

Winter Iowa Games

January 23-25 – Dubuque, IA

January 31-February 1 – Various Locations

February 6-8 – Cedar Rapids, IA

www.iowagames.org

info@iowasportsfoundation.org

**For more about the 2009 Badger State Winter Games and to register,
visit www.badgerstategames.org or call 608-226-4780.**

The American Family Insurance Badger State Winter Games major sponsors include the Wausau/Central Wisconsin Convention & Visitors Bureau, Charter Communications, Ministry Health Care, Time Warner Cable and the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, with special thanks to TravelWisconsin.com. Media Partners include WIFC 95.5, News Radio 55SAU, 94.7 and 99.9 The Valley, The Wausau Daily Herald and WAOW Newsline 9.

Wisconsin Sports Development Corporation (WSDC) is a nonprofit sports management organization whose mission is to foster participation, competition and memorable experiences through events and programs that promote health, active lifestyles and a sense of community. WSDC owns the American Family Insurance Badger State Games, the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, Paddle & Portage, Badger State Duck ‘N Dodge, Shape Up Wisconsin Kids, Lighten Up Wisconsin and the Fit Kids Challenge. WSDC is also the local host of the Ford Ironman Wisconsin triathlon.

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