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**2006 BAY STATE GAMES WILL COMMENCE WITH AN OPENING CEREMONY**

*Come start the celebration of 25 years of amateur athletics July 13*

**WOBURN, MA**—The Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation (MASF) will kick off this year's Bay State Summer Games with an Opening Ceremony July 13 from 7:30pm-9:00pm at Boston University's Agganis Arena. Athletes and their families are asked to come celebrate the start of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bay State Games with a night of entertainment, awards, an Olympic-style athlete march, torch lighting, and other festivities. The Opening Ceremony will be lead by Boston Herald sports writer Steve Buckley, and will feature appearances by 5-year-old National Anthem singer Jordan Leandre, the Boston Cannons, New England Revolution, the Boston Celtics Street Team, music and prizes given away by WBCN 104.1 FM, and more.

The 2006 Bay State Games Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place at the Ceremony. This year's inductees are former Boston Celtic and Bay State Games alum Dana Barros, devoted Bay State Games volunteer for 15 years Rich Moran, The Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts (ATOM) who have been with the Games since its induction in 1982, and the first Executive Director of the Bay State Games Doug Arnot.

Also being honored at the Opening Ceremony are the winning teams from the MASF Mass Shape Up competition. Sixty teams have been competing for five months in Weight Loss (due to a healthy and appropriate diet) or Accumulated Activity Miles. Taking first place in the Weight Loss division was the Hampden County Sheriffs Department Outlaws (Ludlow, MA), placing second was the Emerald Metabolics (Hyannis, MA) and receiving the bronze medal in the Weight Loss division is LAMA-The Flab No More Four (Medford, MA). Winning the gold in the Activity Mile division was the Black and Blue Crew (Braintree, MA), second was the Hampden Country Sheriffs Department Elite (Ludlow, MA), and rounding out the top three in Activity Miles was the Burlington Recreators (Burlington, MA).

The keynote speaker for this special night will be Boston University alum and motivation speaker Travis Roy. An unfortunate accident after only eleven seconds into Roy's first collegiate game on the Boston University hockey team left him paralyzed from the neck down. Roy is certainly an inspiration to all as his injury did not stop him from graduating from Boston University, and going on to start a foundation dedicated to spinal chord injury research. Roy's spirit is one that never gives up, and he will share his message of hope to all Bay State Games athletes.

For more information regarding the Opening Ceremonies and the Bay State Summer Games, please visit our website at [www.baystategames.org](http://www.baystategames.org) or call the Games' office at (781) 932-6555.

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