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MEDIA ALERT

WHO: **Community Youth Center (CYC)
To Host
2007 Junior Greco World Duals**

WHAT: An international youth wrestling tournament featuring elite wrestlers from California and Oregon, as well as, wrestlers from the Regional Wrestling Team of Germany. The Oregon team returns to defend its 2006 team title. Formerly known as the Concord Cup, this will be the 12th year the tournament has been held at the Community Youth Center (CYC). The round-robin team event will be held followed by individual matches featuring the four top wrestlers in each weight class. The tournament often features future stars of Greco Roman Wrestling. The 2006 event featured one world placer, five national champions, 21 All-Americans and several state champions. After the competition, the German Team will spend a week with CYC wrestlers and their families in a cultural exchange, in addition to experiencing Bay Area attractions.

WHEN: **May 26 – 27, 2006
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
Open to the public -- Youth under 18 (free) -- Adults \$10 per day/\$15 two-day pass

WHERE: **Community Youth Center – Concord Campus
2241 Galaxy Court, Concord, CA 94520
(925) 671-7070**

WHY: Under the direction of CYC Head Coach Mark Halvorson, the objective is to host a high-level international wrestling tournament to help elite wrestlers prepare for national and international competition, all while promoting sportsmanship and camaraderie. Halvorson, who recently was the 2006 FILA Junior Greco Roman World Team coach, has developed a successful wrestling program at the CYC which is recognized both nationally and internationally. Since he took over the program in 1998, the CYC has produced two World Team members, 12 National Champions, 61 All-Americans, 21 Regional Champions and more than 98 State Champions. The CYC currently has more than 120 young wrestlers at all skill levels in the program.

“It is the only international Junior Greco Roman tournament in the United States,” said Halvorson. “It is a wonderful opportunity to help prepare the wrestlers for upcoming national competitions, in addition to exposing exciting wrestling to the Bay Area.”

CYC Wrestlers Competing

The CYC will be represented by 12 to 15 athletes. Among the top competitors will be Nikko Triggas, the defending Junior FILA National Champion, who also recently won the Greco Roman & Freestyle State Championships. The Campolindo senior, Triggas is bound for Ohio State in the fall. Others representing CYC include 171-pounder Tito Pica, the 2006 Cadet double All-American (Greco & Freestyle); Johnny Merryfield, the 2006 and 2007 Junior Greco State Champion who was also a Fila Junior All-American in Greco; and Tyler Sheridan, a 145-pounder with five state championships in three different age groups who recently won the Northwest Regionals in Freestyle and Greco. In addition to CYC, Pica, Merryfield and Sheridan are all members of the De La Salle Wrestling Team coached by Halvorson.

The Community Youth Center is a non-profit corporation, which offers an unmatched operational model for youth of all ages (3 to 18) to thrive in a dynamic and positive environment through sports and academics. The Center offers 10 recreational programs, as well as an academic excellence program including wrestling, boxing, taekwondo, judo, gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, sport specific conditioning, cheerleading, dance and outdoor activities.

World class full-time coaches and program directors work together to not only develop the child's athletic ability, but more importantly, to teach the intangibles such as discipline, dedication and desire. In addition to recreational programs, the CYC offers competitive team training opportunities for those hoping to excel at a higher level. For only \$20 a month, kids learn, work and play together in a safe, first-class athletic facility that truly provides a sense of "community" and belonging. The CYC also offers scholarships for those unable to afford the monthly membership fees.

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