

*For Immediate Release
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Independence to Host UPA High School Western Championships

BOULDER, Colo. – The Ultimate Players Association (UPA) recently announced that Independence, Mo. will host the UPA High School Western Ultimate Championships at the Independence Athletic Complex May 10-11, 2008. This will be the first UPA championship event hosted in Independence.

The UPA High School Western Championships feature the top 16 Open and eight Girls' Ultimate teams from states west of the Mississippi. The tournament began in conjunction with the UPA High School Eastern Championships in 2005.

This will be the furthest east that "High School Westerns" has been held since its inception. The bid was put in by the Independence Parks and Recreation Department, who will be serving as hosts in conjunction with Kansas City Ultimate. The brand new Independence Athletic Complex features pristine fields in a unique tiered setting with good support facilities including parking, restrooms, and nearby hotels and restaurants.

"The UPA is excited to be working with a new group of organizers, in a location where we've never held a major tournament," said Will Deaver, UPA championships director. "This is a great event to help showcase and promote Ultimate in a new part of the country. The tournament will certainly benefit from the combination of logistical support provided by the city of Independence and the Ultimate expertise and volunteer base of Kansas City Ultimate."

Independence Parks and Recreation director Eric Urfer states, "I am thrilled by The Ultimate Players Association's decision to hold the 2008 UPA High School Western Ultimate Championships in Independence. This is a milestone for the City of Independence, hundreds of players from the western half of the nation will be coming to Independence and I can't wait to show off our family friendly city and tell our story. To have an event of this caliber in Independence is a true honor, and we look forward to making this an experience the players will never forget."

The tournament will take place on the same weekend as "High School Easterns" for the first time since the tournaments were introduced in 2005. The decision to hold them simultaneously was made in part because the UPA College Championships, which are normally held Memorial Day weekend, have been moved up a week and will be held May 16-18, 2008 in Boulder, Colo.

The 2008 UPA High School Western Ultimate Championships will take place May 10-11 at the Independence Athletic Complex in Independence, Mo. There is no charge for spectators to view the action. For more information on the 2008 UPA High School Western Championships, please visit www.upa.org/juniors/championships/2008_hs_westerns.

*For more information contact Sandie Hammerly, UPA Executive Director at
Sandie@hq.upa.org or 303-447-3472 ext. 111
For more information on the sport of Ultimate, please visit www.upa.org*