

For Immediate Release
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Blaine, MN to Host UPA High School Western Championships

BOULDER, Colo. – The Ultimate Players Association (UPA) recently announced that Blaine, MN will host the UPA High School Western Ultimate Championships at the National Sports Center (NSC) on May 16-17, 2009.

The UPA High School Western Championships feature the top high school Open and 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 first time the event has been hosted in Minnesota, although the local Ultimate community and the NSC have hosted the UPA Youth Club Championships since 2005. The bid was put in by the Minnesota High School Ultimate League, the National Sports Center, and Visit Minneapolis North. The National Sports Center is the world's largest amateur sports and meeting facility.

"The UPA is excited to be working with a group of experienced local organizers," said Will Deaver, UPA Championship Director. "We've built a great relationship with the Minneapolis community and the NSC, and we hope that this event will continue to help promote and build the already strong high school Ultimate community in Minnesota."

Westerns Tournament Director, Bruce Mebust, added, "The Minnesota High School Ultimate League and the Twin Cities Ultimate community are delighted to be the hosts of the UPA High School Western Championships for 2009. This will be the first Westerns held in the Twin Cities and we plan to make it a memorable event. Several teams from Minnesota have gone to past Westerns in other cities and had great experiences. We will do our utmost to provide the same great experience to teams coming to Minnesota in 2009."

"UPA events are a perfect fit for the mission of Minnesota's National Sports Center of serving local and national sport groups and creating tourism for Minnesota," said Teri Vogt, Director of Sport Programming for the NSC. "The UPA and its participants are a treat to host. The players are respectful, have a great time, and take care when using our facilities. We welcome them back with many smiles."

The tournament will take place the weekend after High School Easterns, which will be held on May 9-10, 2009 in Lebanon, OH.

The 2009 UPA High School Western Ultimate Championships will take place May 16-17 at the National Sports Center in Blaine, MN. There is no charge for spectators to view the action. For more information on the 2009 UPA High School Western Championships, please visit www.upa.org/juniors/championships/2009_hs_westerns_temp.

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For more information on the sport of Ultimate, please visit www.upa.org*

About Ultimate

Combining the non-stop movement and athletic endurance of soccer with the aerial passing skills of football, a game of Ultimate is played by two seven-player squads with a plastic disc on a field similar to football. The objective of the game is to score by catching a pass in the opponent's end zone. A player must stop running while in possession of the disc, but may pivot and pass to any of the other receivers on the field. Ultimate is a transition game in which players move quickly from offense to defense on turnovers that occur with a dropped pass, an interception, a pass out of bounds, or when a player is caught holding the disc for more than ten seconds. Ultimate is governed by Spirit of the Game™, a tradition of sportsmanship that places the responsibility for fair play on the players rather than referees. Ultimate is played in more than 42 countries by hundreds of thousands of men and women, girls and boys.

About the UPA

The Ultimate Players Association (UPA) is the national governing body of the sport in the United States and is the largest membership organization in the world devoted entirely to the sport of Ultimate. A not-for-profit organization based in Boulder, Colo., the UPA was founded in 1979 to promote and support the sport of Ultimate and its players and to increase participation at all levels. The organization is governed by a board of directors composed entirely of volunteers elected by the UPA membership, with day-to-day operations directed by a small professional staff. Please see www.upa.org for additional information.

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