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Illinois Hits Home Run with Launch of SportsIllinois.com

CHICAGO, July 24, 2002 – Recognized worldwide for its state-of-the-art sporting facilities, Illinois launched its new sports Web site, www.sportsillinois.com, to provide sports event organizers with the ability to research, plan and schedule sporting events at more than 1,200 statewide athletic venues.

Whether your game is golf, hockey, baseball, football or nearly any other sport, the Sports Illinois Web site provides sports enthusiasts with the ability to evaluate facilities by choosing the type of sporting event they are holding by selecting the Illinois city or region where they wish to host the event. Descriptions of the venues include location details, floor plans, photographs and contact information.

“Attracting major sporting events is an important niche in the state’s tourism marketing effort,” said Pam McDonough, Director Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. “Providing sporting organizations with information on the premiere facilities and services Illinois has to offer is part of our goal to increase tourism, create a significant economic impact and enhance opportunities for all through sports.”

In addition, event planners may also submit request for proposals (RFPs) directly to Illinois Convention and Visitor Bureau (CVB) professionals via www.sportsillinois.com making it even easier to find the perfect Illinois venue.

Giving the Web site a personal touch, users can access their saved results from previous visits by logging in to the site and selecting the "Show My List" icon.

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The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA), Bureau of Tourism, works to promote Illinois as a travel destination, thereby enhancing the state's economic development climate and improving the quality of life for the citizens of Illinois.

The mission of Sports Illinois is to promote Illinois as a sports destination by providing sporting organizations with premier facilities and services for their state, regional and national events. The organization's desire is to increase tourism and create a significant economic impact, an improved quality of life and enhanced opportunities for all in sports.