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News Release

RALEIGH, NC: Sports & Properties, Inc. (SPI) of Raleigh, NC, CEO Hill Carrow recently led the organization of the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the US Olympic Festival –'87 in the Triangle region of North Carolina.

Twenty years ago this summer, the Triangle played host to the US Olympic Festival, the largest event ever held in North Carolina. SPI CEO Hill Carrow served as President and Executive Director of the Festival. The 20th Anniversary Celebration festivities included a volunteer celebration at a Durham Bulls game, a barbeque for former staff members, and a banquet celebrating Olympic and amateur sports in the Triangle.

“Hosting the US Olympic Festival in 1987 was an event with a significant impact on our region,” said Hill Carrow, CEO of Sports and Properties. “The event led the way in making the Triangle a hotbed for Olympic and amateur sports, a trend that we would like to see continue. The creation of this banquet as an annual event where we can honor these outstanding athletes and bring together the area’s biggest amateur sports supporters will only help the Triangle grow stronger in the Olympic and amateur sport world.”

The US Olympic Festival created many outstanding legacies in the Triangle both during and after the event. During the event, the Festival expedited the construction of Terminal C at Raleigh-Durham International Airport, Interstate 40 between Research Triangle Park and Chapel Hill, and fiber optic cables across the Triangle.

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Longer term, the Festival left legacies such as North Carolina Amateur Sports, one of the longest-running sports commissions in the U.S.; the State Games of North Carolina, the state's largest annual event; the Bull Durham Blues Festival, which hosted its 20th edition this past weekend; and the beautiful flowers that decorate the roadsides across all of North Carolina.

In addition, many of the Festival executives have continued to work for the betterment of sports and facilities in the Triangle which has resulted in the hosting of a number of Olympic Trials, NCAA Championships, and the World Special Olympic Summer Games; and new venues such as Durham Bulls Athletic Park, SAS Soccer Park, and the USA Baseball National Training Center.

About Sports & Properties, Inc.: Sports & Properties, Inc. is a sports and entertainment marketing and development firm located in Raleigh, NC. The company consults with cities and community organizations on sports and entertainment economic development projects including Richmond, VA, Winston-Salem, NC, and Philadelphia, among others, and represents major corporate clients such as Capitol Broadcasting Company. SPI is also a specialist and innovator in naming rights sponsorships with projects currently underway for Wake Forest University, the City of Durham, and the Carolina Crossroads Music & Entertainment District in Roanoke Rapids. For more information, visit www.sportsproperties.com.

About US Olympic Festival-'87: US Olympic Festivals were created by the US Olympic Committee and staged for 18 years from 1978 through 1995. The 1987 US Olympic Festival in North Carolina involved 34 Olympic summer and winter sports and sports of the Pan American Games. There were 4,000 participants, 464,000 spectators, 10,000 volunteers, and over 120 hours of live national television coverage on ESPN in an event that stretched from east of Raleigh to Greensboro. The 1987 US Olympic Festival set the majority of the all-time attendance records and was the most profitable of all the festivals held.