



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Spirit of Sport Raising Money and Awareness
For Special Olympics Indiana**

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – Over the past 30 years Spirit of Sport has grown to be the longest fund-raising event with proceeds benefiting Special Olympics Indiana. Since 1976, this event has donated more than \$320,000 to the organization.

Spirit of Sport offers a wide array of recreational activities to the IU community. The event kicks off with students and campus organizations showing their support from the stands as the Special Olympics athletes participate in their basketball game. Then, students take part in events such as basketball, the hip hop dance contest, Fear Factor competition, Texas Hold 'Em, rock wall climbing, Oreo stacking and more. Spirit Games are free of charge and are on a first come, first serve basis. Participants must pay a small fee for the tournament sports, such as euchre, dodge ball, flag football and no peek volleyball.

The Polar Bear Plunge is open both to the IU and Bloomington communities, raising the largest amount of money for Spirit of Sport. In order to participate, a person needs to raise a “bear” minimum of \$60.00 in pledges and take a plunge into the cold waters of a pool that will be located outside HPER Wildermuth during the event. All plungers receive a free long sleeve t-shirt and there are many more incentive prizes offered for the amount of money each individual raises.

Graduate student and four-time plunger Bradley Snyder enjoys the event saying, “There’s nothing like jumping into a 34 degree pool of water for a fantastic cause. It’s a rush unlike any other.”

The event will take place on Friday, February 10, 2006 from 5 p.m.-1 a.m. at the HPER Wildermuth Gym located at 1025 E. 7th Street.

This year’s fund-raising goal is \$7,500 to be donated to Special Olympics Indiana.

“This year we will be celebrating 30 years of Spirit of Sport and we want to make it an outstanding event that everyone will remember,” said Andrea Hill, President of Spirit of Sport. “With all of the activities, events and prizes, Spirit of Sport definitely offers something for everyone.”

Spirit of Sport provides a chance for donors to interact with and become aware of how their time and money affects the lives of Indiana Special Olympics athletes.

For more information, call 812.855.2371 or visit recsports.indiana.edu/~sos

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About Spirit of Sport

Spirit of Sport strives to increase awareness and financial support for Special Olympics Indiana through student, faculty and community participation. This allows any individual regardless of physical ability, gender or race to compete in a variety of sports through Special Olympics. Spirit of Sport strives to inspire Special Olympic Athletes to pursue their dreams.