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Iowa Games Soccer Tournament Becomes a Sister Act

AMES, IA – Three sets of sisters will compete on the same team at the 2009 Summer Iowa Games. They will be competing within the U19 6 vs. 6 soccer tournament to be held in Ames at the Towers Complex on the campus of Iowa State University. Jennifer and Jodie Beitz, Haley and Sydney Groves, all four from Greenfield, as well as, Elle and McKell Lacher of Stuart will participate on Team Tom.

Although these girls have not played as a team in the Iowa Games; Jennifer, Haley, Sydney, and Elle were all members of the Valley Girls Soccer Team which is a combination of Nodaway Valley and West Central High Schools. All of these girls have played on competitive teams in the Iowa Games, but for the Beitz and Lacher sisters this will be the first time playing together in a competitive soccer tournament.

Team Tom will be coached by Wayne Lacher of Stuart. Lacher thought it would be great to bring these girls together for the Iowa Games. When asked how the team would fair in the Iowa Games, Lacher commented, "all the girls are very athletic and he has coached all of them over the years." He expects them to be competitive as all the girls are good friends, but it will be interesting to see the sibling rivalries within the team. "We [Team Tom] are going to go out there and have a good time, it is more about the sisters getting to play together rather than winning," Lacher noted.

The team is set to take the field for the first time on Friday, July 17 at 2:30 PM versus Barry Sweet from Neola.

For more information, venue and team schedules, and the 56 other sports of the Iowa Games visit www.IOWAGAMES.org.

The Iowa Sports Foundation (ISF) is a nonprofit sports management organization that helps develop amateur sports in Iowa and promotes positive lifestyles and physical fitness through athletic events and health education programs. The ISF host the Summer Iowa Games, Winter Iowa Games, Live Healthy America, Live Healthy Iowa, Live Healthy Iowa Kids, Go The Distance Day, Hoopin' at the Dome, Net Fest, Fish Iowa Games, ISF Mud Run, and Iowa Games Golf Classic.

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