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## Winter Iowa Games Breaks Participation Record

**AMES, IA** – The Winter Iowa Games concluded this past Sunday with the wrestling tournament in Perry, Iowa. Iowa Sports Foundation officials announced Monday, the event broke the all-time participation record with 4,132 participants, this breaks the previous record of 3,805 set in 2008.

The record setting event was due in large part to record numbers in the youth basketball tournament, which had 97 teams consisting of 991 athletes. In the fifth year of the dodgeball tournament, the Games also saw record numbers with 13 teams and 124 athletes.

The top individual sport for the sixth consecutive year was the wrestling tournament held in Perry. Although many sports saw an increase in participation, the record number can also be attributed to the addition of women's 6 on 6 basketball, martial arts, and a wrestling tournament in Dubuque.

"In 1996 when we brought back the Winter Iowa Games after a one year absence, we had 1,567 participants," commented Iowa Sports Foundation executive director, Jim Hallihan. "I remember thinking if we ever had 2,000 participants that it would be awesome."

Over the past five years the Winter Iowa Games have been over 3,000 participants. With the addition of new sports and increased marketing efforts the staff knew that 4,000 athletes was not impossible, but did not know it would happen this year.

"Having now surpassed 4,000 athletes for the first time ever is a huge accomplishment for the foundation," said Hallihan. "Thanks to all of the athletes that participated in this record setting year and a special thanks to all of our volunteers and sponsors."

### **2010 Winter Iowa Games by the numbers**

**Number of Athletes:** 4,132

**Number of Teams:** 272 (2,918 athletes)

**Number of Individual Athletes:** 1214

**Number of Counties Represented:** 83 of 99

**Number of Iowa communities hosting events:** 10

The Iowa Sports Foundation will now be gearing up for these May events: Hoopin' At the Dome sponsored by U.S. Bank, the ISF Mud Run presented by the University of Iowa and the 2010 Summer Iowa Games in Ames and surrounding communities throughout June and July.

For more information about the ISF and the Iowa Games visit [www.iowasportsfoundation.org](http://www.iowasportsfoundation.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 Iowa, Live Healthy America, Live Healthy Iowa Kids, Go The Distance Day, Hoopin at the Dome, Net Fest, Fish Iowa Games, and the Iowa Games Golf Classic.