

March 6, 2009

It's a Match: Bakersfield to Host Next Three Years of State Wrestling Championships
CIF Heads Back to Rabobank Arena for 2010-2012 Tournaments

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. - During a news conference held earlier today California Interscholastic Federation Executive Director Marie Ishida announced Bakersfield will remain the host city for the 2010 - 2012 State Wrestling Championship Tournaments. The Bakersfield Convention & Visitors Bureau and Rabobank Arena successfully bid for the next three years of the event, which carries with it a total estimated economic impact of \$6 million to the city.

"We are extremely pleased CIF chose Bakersfield and Rabobank Arena to host the next three state wrestling championships," said Don Cohen, manager of the Bakersfield CVB. "First-class facilities, central location, and a family friendly community are just a few reasons why CIF continues to come back to Bakersfield."

The tournament has been held in Bakersfield since 2004, with an estimated 21,000 wrestlers, spectators, officials, and media personnel attending the two-day event. Bakersfield and Stockton were the two cities that submitted proposals to CIF for the event. The recommendation of Bakersfield as the host city will be made at the CIF Executive Committee meeting on March 20, 2009, at which time the committee is expected to approve the recommendation.

"Each year high school wrestlers around the state set out with the goal of getting to Bakersfield at the end of the season," said Cohen. "As a community, we love being able to provide the wrestlers with a wonderful championship experience, regardless of the outcome on the mat."

The announcement comes during the 2009 CIF State Wrestling Championships Presented by Farmers, currently taking place at Rabobank Arena. The action got under way this morning and continues through tomorrow evening. Tickets are available in person through the Rabobank Arena Box Office and TicketMaster (www.ticketmaster.com or 661-322-2525). Ticket prices vary by session with discounts available for seniors, children and high school students.

The Bakersfield CVB is a non-profit, city managed, economic development organization responsible for strengthening Bakersfield's economy through the marketing, promotion, and selling of the city and region as a site for conventions, corporate meetings, trade shows, pleasure travel, group travel, cultural, sports and special events.

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