



May 9, 2008

CONTACT: Natalie B. Harlan, Director
Center for High Altitude Training
(928) 523-4444 or Natalie.Harlan@nau.edu

Junior Olympic Skills and Minority Leadership converge at NAU during Olympic Week in America

May 5 – 9 is Olympic Week in America and Northern Arizona University's Center for High Altitude Training celebrated on Thursday, May 8 by bringing together elementary school children, high school minority students, collegiate athletes, and Olympic hopefuls.

Local 5th and 6th graders from South Beaver and DeMiguel Elementary Schools had the opportunity to participate in the Junior Olympic Skills Competition for soccer, track and field at NAU's Lumberjack Stadium. This free grassroots youth participation program allows boys and girls, competing separately, the opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities in Olympic events.

"Any chance to get outside and tune-up our bodies for activities that will encourage healthy, life-long physical activities is wonderful, not to mention the real-life connection to the upcoming Olympics," said DeMiguel's Coach Julie Elliott. "I loved seeing [the kids'] faces light up once we stepped onto the NAU track!"

NAU collegiate athletes and Olympic hopefuls helped run the competition, along with a handful of high school students from Flagstaff High School and Coconino High School who were at the center participating in the U.S. Olympic Regional F.L.A.M.E. Program (Finding Leaders Among Minorities Everywhere).

Visit www.jrolympicsskills.com to learn more about the Junior Olympic Skills Competition. Winners from this local qualifying event will advance to a regional competition in Anthem in June.

The Center for High Altitude Training hosts U.S. and international teams traveling to Flagstaff for training at altitude to enhance athletic performance. The U.S. Olympic Committee has designated the Center for High Altitude Training a U.S. Olympic Training Site, home to a Community Olympic Development Program and a U.S. Olympic Community Partner.