



MEDIA ADVISORY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 21, 2006

“ACE’S GOT SKILLS” NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS COMING TO NEW YORK CITY
New York Islanders’ Rick DiPietro to Attend Youth Ice Hockey Event

The Second Annual “Ace’s Got Skills” program, supported by the National Hockey League (NHL) and operated by RDW Sports Marketing, Inc., will hold its national championships at The Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers in New York City, June 24-25, 2006. The ice hockey event featuring more than 70 boys and girls will return to New York City where the inaugural “Ace’s Got Skills” program was launched in memory of the passing of Garnet “Ace” Bailey, an 11-year veteran in the NHL and two-time Stanley Cup Championship winner with the Boston Bruins in 1970 and 1972. On September 11, 2001, Ace was flying to begin training camp as director of pro scouting for the Los Angeles Kings when his plane struck one of the World Trade Center Towers.

WHAT: Modeled after the NHL’s popular All-Star SuperSkills Competition, the “Ace’s Got Skills” program gives boys and girls ages 9-12 the opportunity to test their skill level in skating, puck handling, shooting, and goaltending categories. Regional winners from 6 NHL markets will compete in the National Championship. Additionally, regional winners of the *Sports Illustrated For Kids* Top Skills Award, given to the player with the highest collective score from each of the individual challenges, will face off for the national title. New York Islanders goaltender **Rick DiPietro** will make an appearance on Sunday, June 25.

The NHL and RDW Sports Marketing will also present the First Annual Peter Aquilone Memorial Award to **T.J. Sneath** of Chino, Calif. for his perseverance and unrelenting determination to return to hockey following open-heart surgery last fall. The award honors the memory of Peter Aquilone, a former NHL employee who was actively involved in youth sports.

A portion of the “Ace Got Skills” registration fees goes to the Ace Bailey Children’s Foundation, which focuses on the well-being of hospitalized children undergoing medical treatment with the establishment of programs, environments, and professional services that ease the stress inherent in a hospital stay for children and their families.

WHO: **RICK DIPIETRO**, New York Islanders goaltender
BARBARA POTHIER, Director of the Ace Bailey Children’s Foundation
T.J. SNEATH, 11-year-old recipient of the Peter Aquilone Memorial Award

WHEN: **Saturday, June 24**
9:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Tournament Competitions

Sunday, June 25
7:00 a.m. Tournament Competitions
12:30 p.m. Closing & Awards Ceremony; appearance by NHL goalie Rick DiPietro

WHERE: **The Sky Rink @ Chelsea Piers (Pier 61)**
23rd St. & the Hudson River – New York City

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