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News Release

2008 Olympian MeChelle Lewis To Appear At The John Avery Boys & Girls Club In Durham

Durham, N.C.—Track and Field Olympian, MeChelle Lewis, will appear at the John Avery Boys & Girls Club this Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009 at 5 p.m. Lewis ran the 4x100 at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, and was a member of the 4x100 relay team that won a gold medal at the World Championships. Lewis will speak to Boys & Girls Club members about the importance of hard work and perseverance. The event is being hosted by the Triangle Sports Commission, in association with the United States Olympic Committee.

MeChelle's appearance is part of the U.S. Olympic Committee's "Real Athletes Persevere" Program. The Program is being conducted in the Triangle thanks to the partnership between the Triangle Sports Commission and the U.S. Olympic Committee, announced in October of last year, whereby the Triangle Sports Commission became the USOC's newest Community Olympic Partner. An important component of the Community Partner Program involves education and outreach to local schools and community groups.

The event is open to the media. To make arrangements for attendance and coverage, contact Floyd Laisure, John Avery Boys & Girls Club of Durham, at (919) 688-7315, wflaisure@johnavery.org or Faryn Driscoll at the address above.

About MeChelle Lewis

After running a personal best of 10.97 at the Olympic Trials, MeChelle Lewis made her Olympic debut in 2008, at the Beijing Olympics. Before competing in the Olympics, this Maryland native had a noteworthy career, finishing fifth in the 2007 United States Track and Field National Championship and then competing at the 2007 World Championships. Lewis was a three-time All-American at the University of South Carolina, and one of the American Advertising Federation's Top 25 Most Promising Minorities in Advertising. Currently, Lewis is a professional track and field sprinter, and resides in Cary, N.C. For more on MeChelle Lewis, visit her website at www.MeChelleLewis.com

About the United States Olympic Committee

The United States Olympic Committee, one of America's premier sports organizations, is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo. The USOC is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the National Olympic Committee for the United States. In addition to being the steward of the U.S. Olympic Movement, the USOC is the moving force for support of sports in the United States that are on the

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program of the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American, and Parapan American Games. Learn more about

the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams and the USOC at www.usoc.org.

About the Triangle Sports Commission

Incorporated in 2001 as a North Carolina non-profit organization, the Triangle Sports Commission is an all-volunteer sports commission serving the Triangle region. The TSC led the Triangle's recruitment effort for the relocation of USA Baseball from Arizona and secured local partnerships valued at over \$13 million among the City of Durham, Town of Cary, and the Durham Bulls that resulted in USA Baseball's new headquarters and major international games at Durham Bulls Athletic Park and their National Training Complex at Thomas Brooks Park in Cary. In 2008, the TSC hosted the Lenovo Olympic Celebration featuring 31 Olympic athletes, where Jim Scherr, CEO of the US Olympic Committee, announced the TSC as the USOC's newest Community Olympic Partner. For more information on the Triangle Sports Commission, visit www.trianglesportscommission.com.

About the John Avery Boys & Girls Club

Founded in 1939, the mission of the John Avery Boys & Girls Club is to help young people reach their full potential as productive, responsible, caring citizens. To help accomplish this goal, the club offers several afterschool programs on character, leadership development, health and life skills, fitness and the arts. The John Avery Boys & Girls Club has two Durham locations, including, the Lee Smith Jr. Complex and the Damar Court Unit. For additional information on the John Avery Boys & Girls Clubs, visit www.johnavery.org.