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Eight Nations Compete for FISU World University Netball Championship Title, while Promoting Diversity, Inclusion and Women in Sport

100,000 Global Audience will Tune in as Teams Converge in Miami to Seek World Netball University Title

American Idol Finalist, International R&B Artist & Global Humanitarian to Perform at Opening Ceremonies

Miami, Florida, USA (June 27, 2016) – Netball America Inc., along with the USA International University Sport Federation, is proud to partner with St. Thomas University and the Miami-Dade Sports Commission to host the 2nd FISU World University Netball Championship which will take place July 12-17, 2016 at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida. Elite female athletes from 8 countries, including the USA, Australia, Jamaica, South Africa, Uganda, Trinidad & Tobago, England and Namibia will compete during this international netball event.

The following companies are enhancing their corporate social responsibility program by connecting with the USA and international university community by showing they care about supporting “Today’s Stars, Tomorrow’s Leaders”:

Platinum Sponsors: **Netball America Inc, Diva Cup International, St. Thomas University**

Gold Sponsors: **Gilbert Netball, Visions in Education, Inferno, Fridge Films, Anderson Designs**

Silver Sponsors: **Scorestream, TICDA (Today I Can Do Anything), BUA Productions, dōTERRA, Enjoy Life.**

OPENING CEREMONIES – Tuesday July 12th, 2016

Free Entry!

Event will feature **American Idol finalist Carly Smithson (S7)** and **International R&B Singer Josh Moreland** (Josh has co-written a song with 10-time Grammy Award winner John Legend titled “BetterThan Beautiful”). Also appearing at the event will be **humanitarian, inspirational author, filmmaker, educator, leader in business & a humanitarian Dr. Shelley Sykes.**

Time: 2-3pm

Location: St. Thomas University, 16401 NW 37th Ave, Miami Gardens, Florida, 33054, USA

Global media partner, Vamos Deportes will be broadcasting the event free around the world. Tune into <http://livestream.com/vamos>.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES – Wednesday July 13th – Sunday July 17th, 2016

Join us at St. Thomas University 10am to 5pm daily. Finals will be played from 9am Sunday July 17th, with the gold medal match commencing at 3pm. Games will be commentated by **Netball Icon Vicki Wilson (104 Test Caps), and Golfer and Netball fan Steve Anderson.** Vicki Wilson will be holding a free coaches and players clinic for event participants on Monday July 11th.

“This is a momentous time for not only for the global growth of Netball, but for American University Sports,” said **Sonya Ottaway, President of Netball America and Chair of the 2016 Netball Championship Organizing Committee.** “Netball is opening doors for males and females across the

USA to get involved not only at a social level, but at an elite competitive level. It's very exciting for us, that after the 40 year history that Netball has been in the USA, that Netball America has recruited the 1st ever USA Netball Team of 12 American citizens to represent the USA at this Championship. I believe that much like the grassroots movement that made soccer a mainstay in the American sports landscape, this international netball event will further the sport in the United States and illustrate America's commitment to the exciting sport of Netball to the International Netball community."

Netball, with its roots in women's basketball, has been played throughout the world for over 110 years. Now an International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognized sport, Netball is played in over 70 countries and enjoyed by more than 20 million participants worldwide. Netball is a fast, non-contact game based on the principles of basketball except there is no backboard, no dribbling or running with the ball and players have just three seconds to pass the ball.

"One of my biggest passions is Netball and it's exciting to see the USA not only playing Netball but hosting this elite Netball event," said **Karen Stocks, Managing Director, Twitter Australia**. "Having the Americans on board is a key part for the global growth of the game, and it's great that well-developed netball nations can help make this happen. So I congratulate all the nations and sponsors who are supporting this event and also encourage American corporations to get behind this event as part of their social responsibility programs, and to connect with the international Netball community of million of participants."

"We are very excited to have the opportunity to host the FISU World University Netball Championship," said **Lynda Bell, Miami-Dade Sports Commission Chairwoman and County Commissioner**. "We look forward to showcasing why Miami- Dade County is considered one of the sports capitals of the world."

About the FISU World University Championships: World University Championships (WUCs) are organized by the Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) and are played every two years. The WUCs were created by the International University Sports Federation (FISU) to complete the program of the Universiade. In 2016, FISU will stage 33 WUCs, attracting approx. 6,500 participants from 105 countries across a range of sports.

About Netball America: Netball America a 501c(3) Not-For-Profit organization, is the largest Netball association in the USA. Focus is on showing how Netball creates an exciting atmosphere of participation and supports individual progress, team unity, good health, and education of youth.

"Today's Stars, Tomorrow's Leaders"