



Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

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Virginia Amateur Sports & Subway Commonwealth Games celebrate 26 years *2015 Olympic Speaker – Dot Richardson*

Virginia Amateur Sports, Inc (VAS) organizers of the Subway Commonwealth Games of Virginia announced today that Dot Richardson, a two-time Olympic Gold Medalist softball player will be the guest speaker for the 2015 Games. Dot started playing softball at age 13. She graduated from UCLA where she played on the 1982 National Championship Team. While at UCLA she was named a three-time UCLA MVP, three-time NCAA All American, and NCAA Player of the Decade in softball for the 1980's. Dot became a two-time Olympic gold medalist at the 1996 and 2000 Games. She recorded the first American hit, scored the first run and hit the first homerun in Olympic History. In the championship game, Dot hit a game winning two-run homerun to lead her team to the gold medal. The team also won five medals at the Pan American Games (four gold and one silver) and three gold medals at the World Championships. During her time on Team USA, she received multiple USA softball MVP and defensive player awards while starting shortstop. Dot has served as the Head Softball Coach for the Liberty University Flames since 2013.

The Games will be adding 9 sports to the 2015 competition schedule:

- Artistic Skating – May 9 – AJ Skateworld (Appomattox)
- Roller Derby Mixer – June 27 – AJ Skateworld (Appomattox)
- Artistic Roller Skating – July 11 – AJ Skateworld (Appomattox)
- FootGolf – July 18 – Ole Monterey Golf Club (Roanoke)
- Paddleboarding – August 16 – Marina Shores Marina (Virginia Beach)
- Skiing – September 12 – Snowflex, Liberty University (Lynchburg)
- Snowboarding – September 12 – Snowflex, Liberty University (Lynchburg)
- Skateboarding – September 12 – Snowflex, Liberty University (Lynchburg)
- FlingGolf – September 19 – Massanutten Resort (McGaheysville)

For 26 years the Subway Commonwealth Games have provided excellent opportunities for thousands of Virginians to develop and foster new relationships, establish new goals and personal bests while at the same time learning teamwork, sportsmanship as well as individual and team responsibilities. Various reports show that those who participate in sports have a much better chance to be successful in life.

Main Games Weekend is July 17-19, which kicks off at the Salem Red Sox Stadium on Friday, July 17 at 4pm with the Grand Home Furnishings Athlete Tailgate Party including food provided by Subway, interactive games, music, prizes and more. Following will be the Opening Ceremonies, including Dot Richardson (Olympic Speaker), Miss Virginia, fireworks, parade of athletes followed by a Salem Red Sox baseball game. Main Games weekend upholds a positive reputation with the community for bolstering tourism and serving as an economic engine to the Valley each year. Over the past 25 years, the Games have provided an estimated \$75 million economic impact on the state and community.

"The Subway Commonwealth Games are important part of Virginia's Blue Ridge as a sports destination," stated Landon Howard, President of the Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We welcome all the athletes and their families as they come in to play their favorite sport and enjoy all that the region has to offer as a vacation destination." Subway Commonwealth Games visitors generate a significant economic impact during their visits and therefore create jobs for our communities!

Other sponsors for this year's Games include Kroger, Foot Levelers, and ABC 13.

For more information on the Games, including images for download, visit: www.CommonwealthGames.org/news

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