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Media Contact:

The Nth Element

Nicole Lazar / 619-807-2085 / nicole@thenthelement.com

SAN DIEGO SPORTS MEDICINE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES LATEST SURGERY RECIPIENTS *Non-Profit Sponsors Student Athletes' Surgeries & Returns Them to Sports*

SAN DIEGO, Calif., August 10, 2011 – Dedicated to providing a medical safety net for injured youth with no access to medical care, the San Diego Sports Medicine Foundation (SDSMF) has announced their latest surgery recipients. 16-year-old, Joel from Paloma High School and 20-year-old San Diego State University student Lauren, have both been selected by the SDSMF to receive complimentary medical care, including surgery for their injuries.

Since 2002, the SDSMF has seen and treated over a thousand young athletes from their free sports injury clinics to pre-participation sports exams. Amongst those youth seen, over 100 have required an MRI and/or surgery. Joel and Lauren are two of those young athletes.

Joel was referred to the SDSMF by his treating physician, Dr. Maywood. A junior varsity football player, Joel's leg got stuck amongst players during a tackle. He was given a physical examination and an MRI by the trainer and team doctor, who determined he was in need of ACL reconstruction surgery with a menisectomy.

With his serious injury and the memory of his late father who passed away suddenly in the middle of his freshman year, Joel's mother was left to care for her 5 children. Dr. Maywood submitted Joel's application to the SDSMF. Orthopaedic Surgeon and SDSMF Advisory Board member Dr. Robert Pace kindly offered to take Joel's pro bono case. Joel had surgery on June 17, 2011.

Lauren was referred to the SDSMF by Sport Clubs Athletic Trainer, Niki Blanchflower, and an ATC at SDSU. Lauren injured herself while playing basketball at the recreation center. She has been diagnosed with an ACL tear of her left knee and bi-lateral meniscus tears. She needs knee arthroscopy, medial and lateral meniscectomy, as well as ACL reconstruction surgery.

Lauren was on her mother's insurance plan, but after her mother lost her job she could not afford to keep Lauren on the plan. She does not currently have medical insurance, or eligible for school sports insurance. Dr. Wile with San Diego Orthopedic Associates has kindly offered to do her surgery in September.

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ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO SPORTS MEDICINE FOUNDATION

The mission of the San Diego Sports Medicine Foundation is to provide a medical safety net for injured youth with limited financial means in order to return them back to health, life and sports.

The SDSMF was established in 2002 to fill an existing health care need for the youth of San Diego. We believe all kids deserve the opportunity to participate in life. We are dedicated to providing a medical safety net for injured youth with no access to medical care, including Orthopaedic surgeries, MRIs, preoperative treatment, postoperative care and bracing. The founders represent a strong partnership between local physicians and community leaders. In addition, the San Diego Sports Medicine Foundation operates free Saturday morning injury clinics for high school athletes and provides pre-participation sports examinations, an Orthopaedic surgery fellowship, and educational outreach with five annual conferences.