

Youth golf program participation nearly doubles through Eagles / The First Tee partnership

For Immediate Release

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SAN JOSE (April 8, 2005) – Participation in the San Jose Sports Authority's Eagles at Rancho del Pueblo youth golf program has nearly doubled as a result of its partnership with The First Tee, a national program founded by the World Golf Foundation.

A total of 76 youngsters entered the program's spring session earlier this week at Rancho del Pueblo Golf Course at 1649 Hermocilla Way compared to 41 a year ago, and the 2005 total may double the 160 participants served last year once summer and fall sessions are completed.

Eagles at Rancho del Pueblo was begun by the Sports Authority in 2001 with a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Golf Association to provide free PGA and LPGA instruction and course access to beginning youth golfers who, because of financial hardship, might be excluded from the sport and the life lessons it teaches. It is funded by sponsorships and the annual SBC San José Golf Classic.

When the partnership with the complementary First Tee program is fully implemented, the program will be called The First Tee of San Jose. With greater funding resources and The First Tee's national curriculum, the program is planned to expand further to include additional local courses.

The 2005 SBC San José Golf Classic at CordeValle Golf Club hosted by Mayor Ron Gonzales will be played Monday, July 18. For more information on the tournament, call Shelly Wolfe, program director, at (408) 288-2932.

The Eagles at Rancho del Pueblo / First Tee youth golf program is part of the San Jose Sports Authority's commitment to support youth and amateur sports in our community as well as to bring premier sports events to the city. Visit our website at www.sjsa.org.