



**PRESS RELEASE**

**16 September 2006**

**ZERO GRAVITY AT BEDOK RESERVOIR**

***World's top Wakeboarders & Waterskiers set to defy gravity at the  
HSBC Wakeboard World Cup***

Gravity defying stunts, thrilling jumps and the best of watersports showmanship will come together in a formidable mix at this year's **HSBC Wakeboard World Cup**, to be held at Bedok Reservoir from 30 September to 1 October, 2006.

A star-studded line up of 35 men and women will compete at this last stop of the world cup series in Singapore, for the US\$60,000 cash purse of the prestigious International Water Ski Federation's (IWSF) Wakeboard World Cup Series which consists of wakeboarding and waterskiing stops in six major cities around the world: Qatar, France, China, Russia, Ireland and Singapore.

Title sponsor:



To up the adrenalin rush this year, there will be several new highlights in addition to the competition. Over the course of the two-day extravaganza, spectators will SMS-vote for their favourite riders in the Pro Men Division to qualify for the **Zero Gravity Wakeboarding Challenge**. The top eight favourite riders with the highest numbers of SMS votes over the two-day event will perform any tricks they want and go as 'BIG' (high) off the boat's wakes as possible. The final rider with the highest number of SMS votes at the end of the challenge will walk away with a bonus cash prize of US\$3,000.

**For the first time at Bedok Reservoir, spectators will get to witness four of the world's best professional waterski jumpers soaring distances of more than 60 metres, at the Pro Waterski Jump Demonstration.** The four pro waterski jumpers to be featured in this showcase are current World Jump Record Holder Freddy Krueger, 31, from the USA; Scot "Rocketman" Ellis, 35, from the USA; Kyle Eade, 31 from New Zealand; and Sebastien Dipasqua, 30 from Switzerland.

Out of the 120 kids from the HSBC Junior Riders Programme launched last year, the top 16 young wakeboarders will compete amongst themselves for the honour of being the best junior development riders of the programme at the **HSBC Junior Riders Challenge**. Comprising nine boys and seven girls, all between 10 and 11 years old, the kids have been training at Bedok Reservoir every weekend over the past seven to nine months under the supervision of Singapore Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (SWWF) instructors. These HSBC Junior Riders are currently studying in Singapore schools, including Anglo Chinese School, Bedok Green Primary, East View Primary, East Spring Primary, Eunost Primary School, Methodist Girls School (Paya Lebar), Singapore Chinese Girls School, St Hilda's Primary, Tampines Primary and Temasek Primary.

"We are confident that the addition of the Pro Waterski Jump Demonstration will be a great visual experience for the spectators and a definite crowd

pleaser. What's more, by allowing the public to SMS-vote for their favourite riders for the Zero Gravity Wakeboarding Challenge, spectators will certainly find this year's event more engaging!" said Ms Audrey Wong, HSBC's Head of Country Marketing.

"While we present such an exciting wakeboarding event to the general public, we also made sure that we have not forgotten about our junior riders. With the first HSBC Junior Riders Challenge included in this year's programme line-up, we hope to inspire these young riders by involving them in a world-class competition event such as this." she added.

**Singapore will be represented by wakeboarding siblings Sasha and Matthew Christian, two of the nation's most promising talents, and veteran wakeboarder Suter Tan, 35 years old.** Sasha, 13, is the reigning and 3-time National Wakeboard Champion and currently enrolled at the Singapore Sports School; while Matthew, 16, is a former National Junior Wakeboard Champion, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the recent Singapore Nationals and currently a student at the Anglo Chinese School.

**The event is open to the public and admission is free.** For full programme details, please refer to Annex 5. For more information, please visit [www.wakeboardworldcup.com](http://www.wakeboardworldcup.com).

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**Notes to Editor****HSBC Wakeboard World Cup 2006 Competitors**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Titles</b>
<b>WOMEN</b>		
Chen Li Li	China	2004 Asian Champion / Winner of HSBC Wakeboard World Cup Singapore 2004 / 2005 World Games Champion
Andrea Fountain	New Zealand	2005 World Champion
Meaghan Major	USA	1999 X-Games Champion / 2000 Gravity Games Champion / Winner of 2006 Wakeboard World Cup stop in France / Current 2006 Wakeboard World World Cup Women's Overall Series Leader
Emily Copeland	USA	3 times X-Games & Gravity Games Champion / Winner of HSBC Wakeboard World Cup Singapore 2005
Dallas Friday	USA	4-Times X-Games & 2-Times Gravity Games Champion / 4-Times US Pro Tour Overall Champion. Winner of the 2006 Wakeboard World Cup stop in Qatar & Beijing / 2006 US Masters Champion
<b>MEN</b>		
Rusty Malinoski	Canada	Winner of the 2006 Wakeboard World Cup stop in Beijing
Josh Sanders	Australia	2005 US Pro Tour Overall Champion
Jeff Weatherall	New Zealand	2003 & 2005 World Champion
Phillip Soven	USA	2004 World & X-Games Champion / Winner of HSBC Wakeboard World Cup Singapore 2004 & 2005 / 2005 Wakeboard World Cup Overall Series Champion / 2005 World Games Champion / 2005 Gravity Games Champion
Danny Harf	USA	3 times X-Games Champion. Winner of the 1 <sup>st</sup> 2006 Wakeboard World Cup stop in Qatar / 2006 US Masters Champion / 2006 US Pro Tour Champion / Current 2006 Wakeboard World World Cup Men's Overall Series Leader

**Wakeboard World Cup 2006 Prizes****Singapore Stop****Cash Purse (USD\$)**

<b><u>Pro Men</u></b>		<b><u>Pro Women</u></b>	
<b><u>Head to Head Format</u></b>			
1st	\$15,000.00	1st	\$10,000.00
2nd	\$10,000.00	2nd	\$5,000.00
3rd	\$7,000.00	3rd	\$2,000.00
4th	\$4,000.00	4th	\$750.00
Joint 5th	\$1,562.50		
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Joint 5th	\$1,562.50		

**Overall Series**

A USD30,000.00 bonus cash purse will awarded to the top male rider and female rider who accumulates the highest grand prix points after all 4 Wakeboard World Cup stops (in Qatar, France, Moscow & Singapore). This bonus cash purse will be distributed at the last stop in Singapore.

**Overall Series Cash Purse (USD\$)**

	<b><u>Pro Men</u></b>		<b><u>Pro Women</u></b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$10,000.00	1st	\$5,000.00
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$5,000.00	2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$2,500.00
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$3,500.00	3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$1,500.00
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$2,500.00		

## Pro Waterski Jumpers

### **Freddy KRUEGER**

**USA**

#### **Current World Jump Record Holder**

Personal Best: 73.0 metres (240 feet)

Occupation: Pro Skier / Graduated from LSU with a Marketing Degree

Career Highlights

- 6 time World Record Holder
- 2003 World Champion
- 2003 Pan American Champion

### **Scot "Rocketman" ELLIS**

**USA**

Personal Best Jump: 70.1 metres (230ft)

Occupation: Professional Water Skier/ Co-owner of skifly.com

Career Highlights

- 2003 Masters - 2nd place Men's ski flying
- 2003 Moomba Masters - 3rd place Men's Jumping
- 2002 Open Men National Ski Flying Champion
- 2002 French Masters - 1st place Men's jumping
- 2002 Moomba Masters - 2nd place Men's jumping
- 2001 World Championships - Bronze Medal, Men's Jumping
- 2001 Open Men National Ski Flying Champion
- 2001 Big Air Men's Ski Fly Champion
- 2000 U.S. Pro Tour - Detroit Jumping Champion
- 2000 Beijing Open Jumping Champion
- 2000 Open Men National Ski Flying Champion

### **Sebastien DIPASQUA**

**Switzerland**

Personal Best Jump: 68.6 metres (225 feet)

D.O.B: February 10, 1976

Birthplace: Switzerland

Height: 5' 6"

Weight: 180 lbs

Occupation: Professional Waterskier

Sponsors: Goodman Skis, Oakley Sunglasses, Wet Tech Suits

Career Highlights

- 2 time European jump record holder
- 14 times National record holder

**Kyle EADE**  
**New Zealand**

Personal Best Jump: 67.3 metres (221 feet)

D.O.B: 26<sup>th</sup> November 1975

Occupation: Professional Waterskier, New Zealand Senior Coach, Degree in Marketing from UCF

Career Highlights

- 2004 New Zealand Pro Overall Champion
- Xtreme World Cup Stop Jump Champion
- 2 time Asian-Australasian Overall Champion
- 2 time US National Collegiate Overall Champion
- 10 time New Zealand Open Overall Champion
- New Zealand Jump and Ski Fly Record Holder

**About Waterski Jumping**

Waterski jumping demands strength, an appetite for speed and a certain degree of bravery. It is considered the most dangerous to perform of the three disciplines of waterskiing – the other two being slalom and trick skiing. For safety reasons, jumpers must don a crash helmet and wetsuit body-armor.

In jumping, there are no style points. Skiers are judged on how far they land from the take-off point of the jump ramp. The boat speed is fixed and computer controlled. Each jumper is given three attempts at the jump ramp, which is typically 1.8m high for men, to fly as long a distance as possible and ski away from the ramp. The jumper basically uses a pendulum effect to increase the speed on the water and cuts as late as possible onto the ramp. This can result in speeds of over 100 km per hour before the athlete hits the ramp. To take full advantage of the speed, the skier has to gain altitude by straightening his legs on the ramp. The timing of this technique is crucial as the ski jumper spends less than 0.02 of a second on the ramp's slick surface!

To score the distance, the skier must regain his skiing position on landing. If he falls or fails to ride over the ramp, the attempt is scored as zero and the skier only has the remaining attempts out of the three allocated to register a score. Even so, the distances achieved can be quite incredible. Current World Jump Record Holder and 6-time World Record Holder Freddy Krueger's personal best stands at 73.0m.

### **About The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited**

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is the founding and a principal member of the HSBC Group which, with over 9,500 offices in 76 countries and territories and assets of US\$1,738 billion at 30 June 2006 and 125 million customers worldwide, is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

### **About HSBC in Singapore**

The HSBC Group's history in Singapore dates back to 1877 when its founding member, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, opened its first branch. Today, HSBC has 10 branches incorporating 5 Premier centres, 32 automated teller machines in Singapore. A qualifying full bank, HSBC in Singapore offers a comprehensive range of services including personal and commercial banking, investment and private banking, insurance, forfaiting and trustee services, securities and capital markets services.

### **About the HSBC Junior Riders Programme**

The HSBC Junior Riders programme was launched in 2005 to give kids the opportunity to learn to wakeboard and identify sporting talents who have the potential to be developed for future national representation. Of the 120 kids who participated in the programme, 16 have been selected for further grooming. The young riders, all aged between 10 and 11 years, 9 boys and 7 girls, train weekly with the Singapore Waterski & Wakeboard Federation instructors at Bedok Reservoir. They kids are currently studying in Singapore schools such as Anglo Chinese School, Bedok Green Primary, East View Primary, East Spring Primary, Eunos Primary School, Methodist Girls School (Paya Lebar), Singapore Chinese Girls School, St Hilda's Primary, Tampines Primary and Temasek Primary.

### **About Waterfest Singapore**

An initiative of the Singapore Sports Council (SSC), WaterFest Singapore is currently Asia's only international water sport festival offering a host of exciting local and international water and beach-side sports activities in water locales around Singapore such as the HSBC Wakeboard World Cup at Bedok Reservoir. For more information, visit the website [www.waterfestsingapore.com](http://www.waterfestsingapore.com)

### **About the Singapore Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (SWWF)**

SWWF is the National Sporting Association (NSA) and National Governing Body for the sport of waterskiing and wakeboarding in Singapore as recognized by the Singapore Sports Council and National Olympic Council. Registered in 1975, the SWWF has selected athletes to compete in the Wakeboard World Championships (2000, 2001, 2003 & 2004), Asian & Asian Australasian Wakeboard Championships (2002 & 2004) and 2001 World Games.

On the domestic front, the SWWF organizes annual events such as Wakefest, National Inter-Varsity Wakeboarding Championships, Singapore Waterski & Wakeboard Open and Singapore Waterski & Wakeboard Nationals.

The first competitive wakeboarding event in Singapore was organised by the SWWF in 1994. In 1996, the Singapore Waterski & Wakeboard Federation invited then World Champion Wakeboarder Dean Lavelle to perform demonstrations in Singapore for the first time that paved the way for the sport's popularity in Singapore. For more information on the SWWF's activities, please visit [www.swwf.org.sg](http://www.swwf.org.sg)

### **About the International Water Ski Federation**

The International Water Ski Federation (IWSF) is the World Governing Body for Wakeboarding, as recognised by the International Olympic Council (IOC). For more information on IWSF, please visit [www.iwsf.com](http://www.iwsf.com)

**HSBC Wakeboard World Cup 2006 Programme****Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

11:00 AM	HSBC Junior Riders Challenge - Girls Qualification
11:45 AM	HSBC Junior Riders Challenge - Boys Qualification
1:00 PM	Pro Women Qualification
2:15 PM	Pro Men Qualification
5:00 PM	Pro Waterski Jump Demonstration

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006**

9:30 AM	HSBC Junior Riders Challenge - Girls Finals
10:00 AM	HSBC Junior Riders Challenge - Boys Finals
10:30 AM	Pro Men's Semi-Final (qualification for head-to-head format)
12:00 PM	Pro Women's Semi-Final
12:45 PM	Pro Waterski Jump Demonstration
1:15 PM	Pro Men's Head-to-Head Quarter-Finals
2:15 PM	Pro Men's Head-to-Head Semi-Finals
2:45 PM	Pro Women's Final
3:15 PM	Pro Men's 3rd & 4th Head-to-Head Placing
3:30 PM	Pro Men's Head-to-Head Final
3:45 PM	Pro Waterski Jump Demonstration
4:00 PM	Prize Giving Ceremony
5:00 PM	Zero Gravity Wakeboard Challenge