

## IMG Academies Becomes an Official Sponsor of “Bat Wars”

### *IMG Academies joins baseball's top companies to sponsor the premier product showcase event series*

BRADENTON, Fla. (May 3, 2010)—IMG Academies is proud to announce its official sponsorship of “Bat Wars”—a series of day-long exhibitions where baseball enthusiasts test out the newest advances in bat technology from the industry’s top manufacturers.

The next stop for the product showcase will be May 15, 2010 in Charlotte, NC, where IMG Academies will be present. Ken Bolek, Director of the IMG Baseball Academy, looks forward to the involvement with the national event.

“The IMG Baseball Academy is excited to be a supporting part of Bat Wars... educating and promoting our sport to dedicated young players in such a unique format is a great opportunity for us,” Bolek said. “The goal of the IMG Baseball Academy is to develop young players as well as the game of baseball, and through our participation in these events we’re excited to help Bat Wars achieve the same.”

The title sponsor of Bat Wars is Eastbay.com. Along with IMG Academies, co-sponsors include Reebok, Easton, Spalding, and Nike Baseball, among others. Following the stop in Charlotte, Bat Wars will head to Columbus, OH on June 12 and June 18-19, Winter Haven, FL on July 13, and end in Cooperstown, NY on August 9.

The IMG Baseball Academy has produced some of the top high school teams in the country, including a 31-1 record and national ranking in the 2009 season. Former Academy standout J.R. Murphy was drafted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round by the Yankees last year, and graduates in the last year have committed to schools like Kentucky, Maryland, Miami, Ole Miss, UNC Wilmington and UConn. Numerous MLB players spend winters training at the Academy including Phillies pitchers Jamie Moyer and Kyle Kendrick, the Nationals Ian Desmond and Baltimore’s Felix Pie.

### **About IMG Academies**

IMG Academies is the world’s largest and most advanced multi-sport training facility for athletic, academic and personal development. Over the span of 30-plus years, the Academy’s advanced training methods have helped countless youth, adult, collegiate and professional athletes improve in sport and life by providing an energetic and inspiring atmosphere on a 400-acre campus. Consisting of the IMG Bollettieri Tennis Academy, IMG Leadbetter Golf Academy, IMG Madden Football Academy, IMG Performance Institute, and IMG Baseball, IMG Basketball, IMG Lacrosse and IMG Soccer academies, the Bradenton, Fla.-based Academy attracts more than 12,000 dedicated athletes from approximately 80 countries every year. Through specialized training, expert coaching and customizable programs for all ages and ability levels, IMG Academies offers the ultimate preparation for life in and out of the athletic arena. Find more info at [www.imgacademies.com](http://www.imgacademies.com).