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For Immediate Release:

MARCH is NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINING MONTH
WITH THE 2004 THEME -- "INJURY TREATMENT:
EARLY CARE SPEEDS RECOVERY"

Fourth Annual Event, Sponsored by the National Athletic Trainers' Association
and the Rhode Island Athletic Trainers' Association

PROVIDENCE RI, March 1st, 2004 – Certified Athletic Trainers (ATCs) throughout Rhode Island and the United States will celebrate their profession in March, during National Athletic Training Month. The purpose is not only to generate awareness of ATCs' important role in high school, college and professional sports settings, corporations, the military, hospitals and other health care facilities, but also to educate the public on important health care issues. During this year's National Athletic Training Month, ATCs will be focusing on the topic of "Injury Treatment: Early Care Speeds Recovery."

The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) is a not-for-profit organization that represents 30,000 members in the prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries to athletes and others who are engaged in everyday physical activities. The Rhode Island Athletic Trainers' Association (RIATA) is the local organization made up of state licensed athletic trainers who work with all ages of athletes in the Ocean State. Athletic trainers protect the health and welfare of athletes by determining when it is safe to return to activity and evaluating injuries and providing immediate treatment to speed recovery. Recognized as allied health care professionals by the American Medical Association, ATCs help lessen the burden on the public and private health care systems.

Available to the Media:

- Interviews with athletic trainers working with college and high school athletic teams
- Interviews with athletic trainers working in sports medicine clinics
- Tours of athletic training facilities

RIATA members will be happy to work with you on any ideas you have to promote National Athletic Training Month.

About the RIATA:

State licensed athletic trainers serve in various settings across the Ocean State. The mission of the RIATA is to be the voice of prevention, care and rehabilitation of athletes in Rhode Island.

About the NATA:

Certified athletic trainers (ATCs) are unique health care providers who specialize in the prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses that occur to athletes and the physically active. The National Athletic Trainers' Association represents and supports 30,000 members of the athletic training profession through education and research. www.nata.org Dallas, TX 75247, 214.637.6282; 214.637.2206 (fax).

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