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Royals Center fielder Coco Crisp to Partner with Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation Crisp's Community Involvement Supports Youth Initiatives

(May 2009) **Kansas City, Mo.**—Kansas City Royals Center fielder Coco Crisp will be partnering with the Kansas City Kids' Marathon and Annual Buck O'Neil Negro Leagues Baseball Classic through a unique partnership with the Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation (KCSC&F) in conjunction with the celebration of their 20th anniversary. Crisp says he is excited about partnering with the KCSC&F. "I love the game and I also love to help others, so this partnership is fitting as countless children will benefit from the baseball platform," said Crisp.

Crisp will collaborate with the Annual Buck O'Neil Negro Leagues Baseball Classic this summer. The KCSC&F started the event in 2001 and it educates players, coaches and fans on the history of the Negro Leagues and it is capped off with a competitive tournament which is an avenue to promote baseball in the urban city and (RBI) Reviving Baseball in the Inner City. RBI teams from throughout the United States have competed in the event.

As part of the partnership Crisp will also assist with the Kansas City Kids' Marathon which promotes health and fitness in children K-8th grade. "Healthy living and awareness is so important for children to understand and it is vital to the success of an athlete, I practice a healthy lifestyle and I would like to lead by example," said Crisp.

Kevin Gray, president of the KCSC&F couldn't be more enthused about Crisp's partnership during the foundation's 20th anniversary. "We have a variety of unique community initiatives and we are dedicated to both the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and Children's Mercy Hospital," Gray said. "Coco Crisp is willing to support our organization in conjunction with these wonderful area institutions and we are grateful for his commitment."

About Coco Crisp

The Kansas City Royals acquired Crisp from the Boston Red Sox for reliever Ramon Ramirez. Crisp is an outstanding fielder and hitting .315 the last half of 2008. He also hit .417 (10-for-24) in the playoffs, driving in the tying run in the eighth inning to complete Boston's comeback from a 7-0 deficit in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series against Tampa Bay.

About the Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation

KCSC&F is a privately funded nonprofit organization that benefits Kansas City through sports. Its mission is to enhance the economic development and quality of life of greater Kansas City through sports and promote the lifelong benefits of sports for youth.

The Greater Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation is celebrating its revitalized efforts this year. The organization was a founding and charter member of the National Association of Sports Commissions in 1992 that fosters and promotes amateur sports and serves as a vehicle for the exchange of information pertinent to the Sports Commission industry. "The Kansas City Sports Commission has been very innovative and aggressive in building their local organization," said Don Schumacher, executive director of the National Association of Sports Commissions based in Cincinnati. "Over the last 20 years, they have built one of the finest Sports Commission's in the United States."

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