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Olympic Champion Derek Parra Urges Radio Host Jim Rome to "Stop Insulting" Chiropractic

ARLINGTON, VA -- Olympic gold and silver medalist Derek Parra has signed a strongly-worded letter to sports radio personality Jim Rome praising the chiropractic profession for its contributions to athletes and urging Rome to "stop insulting the chiropractic profession" on his radio program.

Parra, an Olympic speedskating champion who captured the nation's hearts at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, signed the letter at the request of the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) during his appearance as keynote speaker at the ACA's annual business meeting in Kansas City, MO, August 30. The ACA and the ACAuxiliary sponsored Parra throughout the year leading up to the Olympics because of his strong support for the chiropractic profession.

"Doctors of chiropractic have been part of the U.S. Olympic medical staff for many years," Parra's letter to Rome states. "And I feel so strongly about chiropractic care myself that I brought my own chiropractor to the Olympic Games to help me prepare for my competitions." ACA Connecticut Delegate Dr. Keith Overland served as chiropractic consultant to the U.S. Speedskating Team and was instrumental in arranging the sponsorship of Parra.

Jim Rome hosts a nationally syndicated radio program that airs on approximately 130 stations throughout the United States and Canada. Rome is also the host of Fox Sports "The Last Word" show that features candid interviews with some of America's top sports figures. In August of 2001, Rome began his attack on the chiropractic profession, and less than a year later Rome followed suit by excitedly reading a letter last month from a medical student who referred to chiropractic colleges as "voodoo school," and the chiropractic profession as the "chiro cult."

"Saying that chiropractors 'ruin spines for a living' and that they practice 'voodoo,' for example, is off base and extremely hurtful," Parra's letter stated. "Before making such derogatory comments in the future, you should investigate the stringent educational requirements necessary to become a doctor of chiropractic. I believe you will be interested to learn about the high standards members of this respected healing profession adhere to in all 50 states," he added.

ACA is requesting that doctors of chiropractic nationwide who treat sports figures encourage them to send similar letters of protest to Jim Rome. For a full copy of Parra's letter to Rome, visit ACA's Web site at http://www.acatoday.com/hot_topics/082902.shtml.

In addition, for more information on a new series of television Public Service Announcements and a 60-second television ad spot featuring Parra and his support for chiropractic, call 1-800-368-3083 or visit ACA's Web site at http://www.acatoday.com/hot_topics/070102.shtml.