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## **Lottery Player Passes on \$80,000 for \$1 Million Opportunity** *Final “Replay for Riches” qualifying event produces last-minute excitement*

**Rock Falls, Ill. – September 25, 2008** – Accompanied on stage by his son Gavin, sister Anita and mother Nancy, Damion Abney helped the Illinois Lottery end its final “Replay for Riches” qualifying event in style. Damion spun the “Replay for Riches” wheel, took a pass on \$80,000 and booked his place at the “Replay for Riches” finale, where he and five other contestants will compete for a \$1 million grand prize.

Throughout the 12-weeklong “Replay for Riches” promotion, the Lottery selected weekly winners from a pool of players who submitted \$30 in non-winning tickets. The 12 winners attended special qualifying events and spun the “Replay for Riches” wheel, which featured prize amounts from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Each contestant then decided whether to receive a prize check for the amount shown on the wheel or to place the amount won on the “Replay for Riches” leader board. The top six finalists on the leader board will participate in the summer promotion’s finale, where one lucky winner will go home with \$1 million and the remaining five finalists will walk away with \$100,000.

“I can’t believe this happened to me,” Damion said. “Everybody wondered why I bothered sending in my non-winning tickets, and I kept saying, ‘Somebody has to win; why not me?’” Damion will have the chance to prove the naysayers wrong once and for all on September 27, when he visits U.S. Cellular Field to go for \$1 million at the “Replay for Riches” finale during a Chicago White Sox home game.

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### **About the Illinois Lottery**

Founded in 1974, the Illinois Lottery is a state agency with annual sales over \$2 billion. Since its inception, the Lottery has contributed more than \$14 billion to the state Common School Fund to assist K-12 public schools. Players must be at least 18 years old. For more information on the Illinois Lottery please visit our Web site at [www.illinoislottery.com](http://www.illinoislottery.com).

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