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Lottery Player Turns Non-Winning Tickets into \$80,000 *Chicago resident notches big win in “Replay for Riches” summer promotion*

CHICAGO – September 25, 2008 – At the Illinois Lottery’s final “Replay for Riches” qualifying event, Leo Baldomero took his chances. Leo placed his \$80,000 win on the line in hopes of making the “Replay for Riches” finale, where one lucky winner will take home \$1 million. Although a tie-breaker draw kept Leo from the finale, the 45-year-old Chicago resident still turned \$30 of non-winning tickets into \$80,000.

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.

When his spin landed on \$80,000, Leo decided to put his winnings on the leader board. Unfortunately, two other competitors had registered the same amount. Although a subsequent tie-breaker ended his chances at \$1 million Leo is still excited about his participation in “Replay for Riches.

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“I’m so excited that my entry was chosen and I had the chance to attend the qualifying round,” Leo said. Asked about his \$80,000 win, Leo said, “I’m still not sure this is really happening.”

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.

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