

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - March 9, 2001

Contact:

Leticia Vasquez, 512-344-5208

RECORD \$85 MILLION *LOTTO TEXAS* SALES FACT SHEET

(Austin, March 9) - This week *Lotto* fever swept the entire state from border to border and everywhere in between. The game's record \$85 million jackpot broke the game's previous Wednesday sales record and created long lines inside and outside many of Texas' 16,244 retail outlets that sell *Lotto Texas* tickets.

Due to record sales, the jackpot prize exceeded the estimated \$85 million jackpot by \$2,427,961.00.

The winner chose the Cash Value Option, which provides a final prize of \$51,214,323.00, before the 28 percent federal tax is withheld, and gives a net value sum of \$36,809,513.00 to the lucky 'lone' ticket holder.

Lotto began "rolling" to its \$85 million record on January 31st, starting at \$4 million.

Lotto Sales hit their peak between 6:00-7:00 PM Wednesday when tickets were selling at more than 64,000 per minute, or in excess of 1,000 tickets per second.

Wednesday's one-day *Lotto* sales soared to \$32,134,154.00, the highest ever. The game also registered the second-highest sales for the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday prior to the March 7 drawing.

The largest single-winner *Lotto* prize was awarded to Joe Jones of Mansfield. He won \$55 million in November of 1994. This was before the Cash Value Option was available to players.

. . . .

The Texas Lottery, the 4th largest selling lottery in North America, is "Focusing on the Future of Education, One Ticket At A Time." By providing the 'Games of Texas' for more than 10 years, the Texas Lottery Commission (TLC) has generated more than \$10 billion for the state and paid nearly \$17 billion to players in prizes. For more information about the TLC, please visit the official website at <http://www.txlottery.org>

-30-