

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - July 5, 2001

Contact:

Leticia Vasquez, 512-344-5208

THE SEVEN ACES STRIKE IT BIG; PARTNERSHIP COLLECTS \$1.1 MILLION TEXAS TWO STEP PRIZE

(Austin, July 5) - Lottery players in Corpus Christi have taken a shine to the Texas Lottery's newest game, *Texas Two Step*.

Within one month, two top-tier *Texas Two Step* prizes have been won by residents of the sparkling city by the bay.

The Texas Lottery Commission today presented the Seven Aces, a partnership of seven friends from Corpus Christi, with a ceremonial check in the amount of \$1.1 million. The partnership purchased the lone winning ticket for the *Texas Two Step* drawing on Friday, June 15th.

The winning Quick Pick ticket was purchased at Ace Mart, 4750 Leopard Street. For selling the winning ticket, the store is eligible to receive a bonus of one percent of the advertised jackpot, which comes to \$10,000.

The winning numbers were 07-24-25-20, with 35 the bonus ball number.

The Seven Aces are the second group of work mates employed at the city's Army Depot to win a large Texas Lottery prize. The Ramp Rats, another partnership, won a Cash Value Option prize of \$6.4 million on May 10th, 2000, playing *Lotto Texas*.

"We've been buying two tickets each for practically every drawing of *Lotto* and now with *Texas Two Step*," said Mario Garza, managing partner of the Seven Aces. "We kid around a lot, so when one of the guys told me we had won, naturally I didn't believe him. In fact, one of the other guys thought the jackpot had been \$91,000, and we had to straighten him out when we all finally got together the Tuesday after the drawing. Was he ever surprised!"

A Corpus Christi resident was one of the three winners for the first *Texas Two Step* drawing on May 18th. Barbara Smart received a prize of \$91,258. She purchased her ticket at Lozano Liquor Store, 5133 Kostoryz, Suite C, in Corpus.

The winner requested minimal publicity.

Saturday's *Lotto Texas* jackpot is an estimated \$13 million.

....

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-