

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - June 20, 2003

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Mesquite Texas Lottery® Player Finds Winning Quite Nice



Melinda Hammers of Mesquite, three-time winner of two of the 'Games of Texas.'

(Austin, June 20) - She's only played the Texas Lottery about five times, and that was all it took for 20-year-old Melinda Hammers of Mesquite to win big in two of the 'Games of Texas.' Her ticket for the *Cash Five*™ drawing on Monday, June 16, earned her \$26,766. But she had another ticket with her today when she came into the Texas Lottery Commission's Dallas Claim Center.

"She also turned in a 'lil ole' *Texas Two Step*™ ticket from the June 6 drawing that matched four numbers in that game," said Reagan E. Greer, Executive Director of the Texas Lottery Commission. "That brought her another \$1,432. Our staff is used to excited winners, and they really enjoyed helping Melinda. What a lucky young lady."

Melinda said she bought two tickets for the *Cash Five* game. One was a Quick Pick, and the other she chose the numbers at random. It was the ticket with her numbers that earned her the top prize of \$26,766. One other ticket sold in Grapevine also matched the five numbers for that drawing.

Melinda learned of her fortune Tuesday morning, when she saw the numbers in the *Dallas Morning News*. Her Dad, who Melinda says plays "all the time," told her that it looked like she had a winner. Melinda called her fiancé who at first didn't believe her.

"We're getting married soon, so we really needed this," Melinda said. "It was such a blessing."

Melinda said she'll use the money to pay for the rest of the wedding, and then pay for college. She wants to be a teacher and is taking classes now at Eastfield Community College.

Melinda bought her *Cash Five* ticket with the multidraw option, making her five numbers (20-25-26-30-34) good for six drawings. All five numbers came in the first night of her ticket, earning her the \$26,766, and three came in the next night for \$11. With the *Texas Two Step* winnings of \$1,432 added in, her total winnings came to \$28,209, before taxes.

Both of Melinda's winning tickets were purchased at Kwik Stop Discount Gas, 4921 Gus Thomasson Road in Mesquite. The retailer is eligible to receive a bonus of \$267.66 for selling one of the top-prize-winning *Cash Five* tickets. For more information about the Texas Lottery, please visit the official Texas Lottery Commission Web site at <http://www.txlottery.org>

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