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**WALDEN MEDIA AND PENGUIN YOUNG READERS GROUP SCORE TOUCHDOWN WITH
*JIM THORPE: ORIGINAL ALL AMERICAN***

NEW YORK (July 17, 2006)—Walden Media and Penguin Young Readers Group are proud to announce the release of *Jim Thorpe: Original All American* (Dial Books for Young Readers/ Walden Media; hardcover; \$16.99; 208 pages; Ages 10 and up; July 2006), the critically-acclaimed biography from award-winning author Joseph Bruchac. Bruchac uses a skillful blend of fiction and fact to detail Jim Thorpe's legendary career in track, baseball, football, and the Olympics, while also describing a period of cultural upheaval as Native Americans were integrated into mainstream society.

Jim Thorpe: Original All American also marks Walden Media's first published collaboration with Penguin Books for Young Readers as part of a multi-year, multi-title co-venture. "We are thrilled to begin to bring the first fruits of this partnership to the marketplace," says Walden Media President and co-founder Micheal Flaherty. "This marks the beginning of our efforts to expand our ability to tell and share stories, enabling us to move far beyond the time and money constraints inherent in the development of feature films."

Jim Thorpe: Original All-American presents the story of the early life of celebrated Native American athlete Jim Thorpe, considered by many to be one of the greatest athletes of the 20th Century. The book details Thorpe's early life and the remarkable success achieved by him and his football teammates at Pennsylvania's Carlisle Indian School. *Jim Thorpe: Original All American* provides an emblematic depiction of the trials and tribulations of Native American societies in the early twentieth century.

"We like to choose projects that link to topics and subjects we think deserve more attention, such as underappreciated role models and forgotten parts of history," says Flaherty. "We have also placed a special emphasis on finding subject matter that will be of interest to young boys. Research has shown that when boys are given books about subjects that excite their interest, they are more likely to read."

Thorpe will also be the subject of Walden Media's upcoming film *Carlisle School*.

Kirkus Review hails *Jim Thorpe: Original All American* as "a superb blend of fiction and nonfiction, rooted in the author's usual careful research. Not just a sports-hero tale, this delves into such important issues as the line between amateur and professional sports, the effect of big-time money on sports, racism and the relationship of Native Americans to a dominant society."

Joseph Bruchac is an acclaimed Native American author who has written over 70 books for adults and children and his poems, articles, and stories have appeared in over 500 publications. He has also worked as a professional storyteller, recounting traditional tales from the Adirondacks throughout the United States and Europe. Mr. Bruchac was named Writer of the Year and Storyteller of the Year by the Wordcroft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers in 1998, and in 1999 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas.

Other books coming soon from Walden Media and Penguin Books for Young Readers include *The Teacher's Edition* by Michael Reisman (Razorbill/Walden Media, February 2007) a fantasy based on the laws of physics that will help curious kids answer the commonly-asked question, "Why do I need to learn this?" *The White Giraffe* by Lauren St. John (Dial/Walden Media, August 2007) which introduces readers to life on a wildlife preserve in present-day South Africa, and *Paddywhack Lane* by Bob Fuller, a

series of picture books for young kids about imagination (Grosset & Dunlap/Walden Media, April 2007)

Early this fall, Walden Media will launch a new area of its web site (www.walden.com) to support the publishing venture and create the largest community of children's and young adult authors and readers on the web.

Title: JIM THORPE, ORIGINAL ALL AMERICAN
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Ages: 10 and up

About Walden Media LLC

Walden Media was founded in 2001 by Cary Granat, former president of Miramax Films' Dimension label, and education reformer Micheal Flaherty, and specializes in entertainment designed to recapture the audience's imagination, rekindle curiosity, and spark an enthusiasm for lifelong learning, selecting each production based on educational merit. Film and television projects include compelling interpretations of favorite works of literature, lively retellings of historical events, adaptations of contemporary novels, giant screen extravaganzas and documentaries. Past projects include *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (2005) and *Holes* (2003). Walden Media will release *How to Eat Fried Worms* and the highly anticipated *Charlotte's Web* later this year.

About Penguin Young Readers Group

Penguin Group (USA) is the U.S. affiliate of the internationally renowned Penguin Group. Penguin Group (USA) is one of the leading U.S. adult and children's trade book publishers, owning a wide range of imprints and trademarks including Berkley Books, Dutton, Frederick Warne, G. P. Putnam's Sons, Grosset & Dunlap, New American Library, Penguin, Philomel, Plume, Puffin Books, Riverhead Books and Viking, among others. The Penguin Group is part of Pearson (FTSE: PSON; NYSE: PSO). Pearson is an international media company with market leading businesses in education, business information and consumer publishing. For more information, visit www.pearson.com.

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