

Top U.S. Short Track Speedskaters Head to Midland for 2009 Dow U.S. National Age Class Short Track Speedskating Championships and American Cup Final

Experience up-close the high speed crashes and unbelievable passes of short track speedskating March 13-15, 2009 at the Midland Civic Arena when the Midland Speed Skating Club hosts the 2009 Dow U.S. National Age Class Short Track Speedskating Championships and American Cup Final. More than 250 skaters are expected to compete in either National Championship races or the American Cup Final. Skaters ranging in age from 8 – 70+ will vie for a chance to be named National Champion for their age group, while 32 elite skaters invited by U.S. Speedskating will battle in the American Cup Final for a coveted Olympic-year spot on the U.S. National Short Track Team in Utah.

As a testament to the strength of the speedskating programs in Mid-Michigan, five of the American Cup skaters have trained in either Midland or Bay City. Midland's Barry Winslow, now training in Marquette at the U.S. Olympic Education Center, enters the competition ranked 11th, while Midland's Kevin Geminder is ranked 16th. On the ladies side, Bay City's Rachel Skrocki and Morgan Izykowski are ranked 10th and 12th, respectively, while Midland's Kelsey Schiel starts in the 16th and final spot. 2006 Olympian Anthony Lobello is the top ranked American Cup male skater, while World Cup skater Mary Grace is the top ranked woman.

Amazingly, the Midland and Bay City Speed Skating Clubs will be sending a total of 16 skaters to the National Championships. The local skaters are: Reuben Irizarry, Dakota Mack, Thomas Yura, Andrew Dyke, Hobie Fisher, Bavo Coremans, Diana Bickmore, Darcey Lehman, Amy Smith, Fabienne Coremans, Alec Chappetta, Brett Perry, Susan Renshaw, Richard Smith, Peter Wells, and Mark Eckstein

All races are FREE on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until 5PM; Friday and Saturday evening finals are \$5/person. On Friday and Saturday, catch the adult Masters skaters battle in the mornings beginning at 8AM, then join us for the preliminary National Championship races, which will end around 4PM. Doors re-open at 5:30PM, and then at 6:30 PM get ready to feel the breeze at rinkside as the action starts again with the National Championship event finals and the crazy-fast elite American Cup races – a bargain at \$5/person. Come early at 6PM and cheer your favorite mascot on to victory in our first-ever mascot speedskating races. Pivot the Penguin, Big Boy, Lou E. Loon (Friday only), Northwood University's Timberwolf, and Saginaw Valley State University's Cardinal will be battling for a chance at the gold "medal"!

On Sunday, the overall winners will be named late afternoon at the conclusion of racing. Get a sneak-peek at the Michigan skaters who'll be competing for a spot at the 2010 Winter Olympics! For more information, go to www.MSSCevents.com or call (989) 600-6726.

2009 Dow U.S. National Age Class Short Track Speedskating Championships and American Cup Final

Hosted by the Midland Speed Skating Club

Sponsored by Dow Chemical, MidMichigan Medical Center, Quebecor, LaBelle Management & the H Hotel

Schedule for March 11-15, 2009 – Midland Civic Arena

Wednesday – Practice (Free & Open to the Public)

9:00-10:20AM American Cup – Male

10:30-11:50AM American Cup – Female

Noon-1:00PM National Age Group – Pony-Juvenile

1:10-2:20PM National Age Group – Junior & Up, Male

2:30 – 3:30PM National Age Group – Junior & Up, Female

7:00-9:00PM Opening Reception featuring Derek Parra, H Hotel (Invited Guests & Media Only)

Thursday Practice (Free & Open to the Public)

Noon-1:00PM American Cup Skaters – Male

1:10-2:10PM American Cup Skaters – Female

2:20-3:20PM Master Skaters (age 30 and up)

3:30-4:30PM Intermediate (age 17-30) and Juniors (age 15-16)

4:40-5:30PM Juveniles (age 13-14)

5:40-6:20PM Midgets (age 11-12)

6:30-7:10PM Pony (age 10 and under)

7:20-8:20PM Pony, Midget, Juveniles

8:30-9:30PM Junior and older

Friday & Saturday – Competition (Free until 5PM, \$5/person after 5:30PM)

8AM-10AM Masters (adults) National Championship races (awards to follow)

10AM-4PM Preliminary races for skaters Pony-Intermediate

6:00 PM Mascot Races!

6:30 PM-9:00PM National Championship Event Finals (Pony-Intermediate) & American Cup races

Sunday – Competition (Free all day)

8:00AM-4:00PM National Championship races

12:30-4:30PM American Cup races

4:30PM Awards Presentations to Overall Winners