

Elite Speedskating Returns to Midland

**2011 Dow American Cup III Short Track Speedskating Championship
set for February 12 & 13 at Midland Civic Arena**

Building on an ever-growing national reputation, the Midland Speed Skating Club is proud to announce it will be hosting the 2011 Dow American Cup III Short Track Championship February 12-13, 2011 at the Midland Civic Arena. This free event marks the sixth national-level competition to be hosted by the club since the opening of the new Midland arena in 2005. Meet director and Midland Speed Skating Club president Gary Dyke noted that “exciting national events like this are not possible without the incredible community support we receive. We are grateful for the many, many hours put in by local volunteers and the incredible financial support we receive from our sponsors. “

Building on a great tradition of speedskating sponsorship in the local community for over 50 years, The Dow Chemical Company has graciously taken on the role of title sponsor. “We are very excited to be a major sponsor of the 2011 Dow American Cup. These events continue to showcase the quality of life that contributes to the success of the Great Lakes Bay Region,” said Earl Shipp, Vice President of Dow’s Michigan Operations.

Other long-time speedskating supporters Mid Michigan Medical Center-Midland and LaBelle Management are also crucial sponsors of the meet, according to Dyke. “Our goal, as always, is to put on a first-class competition, which can only be made a reality through the dedication of our sponsors and volunteers. We expect a fantastic weekend of racing and I encourage everyone in the community to come out and catch a glimpse of future Olympians.”

Two jam-packed days of racing are expected, which includes not only the Dow American Cup III, but also the Midwest Mini Cup – a regional speedskating competition. Mini Cup competition takes place in the mornings both days, while nationally qualified skaters will vie for a chance to earn valuable points in the prestigious U.S. Speedskating American Cup series in the afternoons. The list of national competitors includes many talented skaters with ties to the Great Lakes Bay Region. Area skaters expected to compete in the 2011 Dow American Cup III are Bay City’s Rachel Skrocki, now training in Salt Lake City; Midland’s Kevin Geminder; and U.S Olympic Education Center skaters Kelsey Schiel, Brett Perry, and Barry Winslow. For more information, visit www.MSSCevents.com

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