

Olympian Ryan Bedford Returns Home to Midland for Public Celebration January 28th; Free Speedskating Exhibition, Shirts, Autographs, Cake, and More!

MIDLAND 01/20/10: Mid-Michigan's newest Olympian, long track speedskater Ryan Bedford, is returning home to Midland Thursday, January 28th, just days before he leaves for the biggest competition of his career. To welcome Bedford back to the Great Lakes Bay Region, the Midland Speed Skating Club and the Dow Corning Corporation will be hosting a free evening of festivities for the public at the Midland Civic Arena. Highlights of the celebration include free cake, T-shirts (while supplies last), and a keepsake photo of Ryan Bedford; a chance to meet Bedford in person for autographs, photographs, or to offer well wishes; a short speedskating exhibition featuring Ryan Bedford; and a question/answer session where the public is invited to ask Bedford questions about his speedskating experiences.

A world championship medalist in both long and short track speedskating, Bedford's latest victory was a first place finish December 29th at the 2010 U.S. Speedskating Championships in the grueling 10,000m, besting the competition with a time of 13:20:46.

To mark the occasion, Dow Corning is supplying free T-shirts (while supplies last) celebrating Midland's support of Ryan Bedford's quest for the ultimate speedskating prize. The shirts will be printed with a recent innovation from Dow Corning....silicone textile inks. The Dow Corning® Textile Printing Inks were also used in the printing of Ryan Bedford's workout apparel. The inks provide environmental benefits and allow printing even on the most challenging high-performance fabrics. Dow Corning developed a breakthrough technology for screen printing inks that allow manufacturers to print on a wide range of garments. These new silicone-based inks offer durability, a non-tacky finish, superior color fastness, and high elongation on elastic fabrics.

The evening's activities will begin at 6:30, when Bedford will take to the ice with the youngest speedskaters of the Midland Speed Skating Club, offering inspiration to the next generation of Midland's speedskating champions.

At 7:00PM, an advanced speedskating exhibition will be offered featuring Bedford and the fastest skaters of the Midland Speed Skating Club. Spectators will be offered a special opportunity to see why Ryan Bedford is ranked among the best in the world.

From 7:15-7:30PM, the public is invited to ask Bedford about his career and growing up in Mid-Michigan during a question and answer session.

Ryan Bedford will be available for photographs and autographs from 7:30-8:00PM, offering the public an opportunity to personally wish him well in his upcoming races.

Schedule of Events, Thursday Evening, January 28th, 2010 Midland Civic Arena, 405 Fast Ice Drive, Midland

6:30-7:00 Ryan Bedford Skates with Young Members of the Midland Speed Skating Club

7:00-7:15 Advanced Skating Exhibition, Featuring Ryan Bedford

7:15-7:30 Public Question & Answer Session with Ryan Bedford

7:30-8:00 Ryan Bedford Available for Autographs, Photographs, and Well-Wishes

More information is available at www.MSSCevents.com. Find out how you can learn to speedskate for one month FREE at www.MidlandSpeedSkatingClub.com.

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