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## **Virginia Speedskating Team Turns Heads at American Cup Short Track Speedskating Competition** Cleveland, OH

January 27, 2008

The American Cup Short Track Speedskating Competition was held this weekend in Cleveland, OH with over two hundred skaters representing 19 clubs across the US and Canada, including three skaters from the 2006 US Olympic Team.

Ten skaters from Virginia Speedskating, which skates out of the Richmond Ice Zone in Richmond Virginia, qualified for the competition.

Speedskating is an individual sport; there is no team award. However, Virginia was the clear team leader with a TeamVA skater winning the Gold Medal in four of the nine competition brackets, including: Sally Chea (Pony), Kevin Lee (Juvenile), Kimani Griffin (Elite), and Steve Burton (Masters).

Three other TeamVA skaters were on the medal podium, including: Alex Chea (Intermediate), Rachel Stewart (Elite), and Jim Rodowski (Elite).

“With their performance this weekend TeamVA has solidly established themselves as a new Center of Excellence for US Speedskating,” said Jack Mortell, Vice President of US Speedskating, “we are going to work closely with their program to enable their program to have what they need to succeed.”

“It’s remarkable how far TeamVA has come in the short history of their program,” said Jimmy Jang, a Coach for the 2006 US Olympic Short Track Team, “To have so many skaters performing at this level is a great testament to their program.”

Virginia Speedskating skates at the Richmond Ice Zone each week all year round. The first month is free. Excellent coaching and skates are available for beginning to advanced level skaters. Visit their web site to learn more information.

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