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Richmond Speed Skaters Bring Home the Gold at 2008 US National Short Track Championships.

In a stunning culmination of their successful 2007/2008 season, TeamVA won 10 Gold medals at the US National Short Track Championships held last week end in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. *The team won a total of 23 medals, which was the most medals won by any club in the US.*

Two of the team skaters were named Overall National Champions for their age-group classification: Jim Rodowsky for the Juvenile Division and Landon Hatfield for the Junior Division. Both skaters qualified to compete next weekend at the North American Championships where the best of the US and Canadian skaters go head-to-head.

We've had a tremendous season and everyone went into the competition with confidence, stated Steve Burton, Executive Director of Virginia Speedskating, but no one would have guessed that we would perform at the level that we were able to achieve.

The competition included 280 skaters, who qualified for the Championships based on performances during the 2007/2008 short track speed skating season. The skaters represented teams from across the entire US.

Short track speed skating is the fastest self-propelled sport in the world. It has been referred to as NASCAR® on ice where you compete on a 110 meter oval track in groups of four and five skaters who fly up to 40 mph through the curves.

Virginia Speedskating is a non-profit organization that coordinates speed skating activities in the greater Richmond area. The club skates at the Richmond Ice Zone on 646 Johnston Willis Drive. Skaters of all ages and abilities are welcome to join the club. There is no cost to join and the first month is free for anyone interested in trying the sport. All needed equipment are provided for each by the local club. We have one of the best early-stage development programs in the country.

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