



SportsQuest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Midland, MI

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SportsQuest's Speed Skating Team Crowned as US National Short Track Champions - Again.

This weekend the top speed skaters from across the country were invited to Midland, MI to compete in the US National Short Track Speed Skating Championships. The SportsQuest team was one of the fifty-six teams represented at the annual three-day competition. The format involves every skater skating in four distances. Medals for first, second, third and fourth place are awarded for each race distance across nine age groups.

SportsQuest, the newly announced Sports and Family Entertainment Campus in Chesterfield County, is the team sponsor and future home for Richmond's speed skating team, who now skate at the Richmond Ice Zone (Richmond, VA) and Skate Nation Plus (Glen Allen, VA).

In 2008 SportsQuest's Richmond-based team shocked the speed skating world by capturing its first National Short Track Speed Skating Championship. "We were under everyone's radar in 2008; this year we entered the competition as National Champs and carried a great big target on the back of our skaters," says Executive Director, Steve Burton, "having to defend our title carried additional pressure and the entire team responded. Our parents and skaters were a great source of support and inspiration as the competition unfolded."

"It was a true team effort," says Scott Koons, Program Director, "ten of our skaters contributed to the total of 25 medals our team won during the three-day competition." EunJi Jeong (age 20), Rachel Stewart (age 16), Josh Burton (age 18), Alex Chea (age 15), Patrick Lee (age 14), and John Beck (age 50) combined for 14 medals. Jeong and Stewart finished 2nd overall in their age groups.

Thomas Hong was unquestionably the most remarkable individual performance for the SportsQuest team. Hong, only 10 years old, won four Gold medals, ultimately earning the overall National Title for his age group for the second year in a row. He did so in grand fashion, setting new US National records in three of the four distances he skated.

Hong is not the team's only rising star, Sally Chea (age 11), Jonathon Heo (age 12), and Yujin Son (age 9) won a total of seven medals. Chea and Heo placed 2nd overall for their respective age groups.

"Some of their skaters, like Hong, are simply amazing," said Jimmy Jang, US National Team and US Olympic Team Coach, "many of their older skaters have a shot at the 2010 Olympic Team." High performance teams are no stranger to the SportsQuest team. Kimberly Derrick was on the 2006 Olympic Team. SportsQuest team captains, Derrick and Jordan Malone, are currently on the US World Team in 2009, where both have enjoyed outstanding success this season. Earlier this month, Derrick was the first US woman skater to ever earn an individual World Cup Gold medal.

Anyone can try short track speed skating. SportsQuest team member ages range from 5 to 61. The SportsQuest speed skating program includes a novice team, a development team, and a high performance team. The first month is free for skaters of all ages and abilities, which includes ice time, skates and instruction. Spring is a great time to learn to skate.

Contact Steve Burton, Executive Director at sburton@sportsquest.biz

To learn more visit: www.sportsquest.biz or www.virginiaspeedskating.org