

# NEWS RELEASE

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## EVERETT, WASH., SELECTED TO HOST 2008 SKATE AMERICA

**Colorado Springs, Colo. (Oct. 24, 2007)** – U.S. Figure Skating announced today the selection of Everett, Wash., as the host city for 2008 Skate America. The international event is one of six stops on the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series. Competition will take place at the Comcast Arena at the Everett Events Center, Oct. 24-26, 2008.

"We are extremely pleased to award this competition to Everett," U.S. Figure Skating President Ron Hershberger said. "The many athletes and visitors to the city will be pleased with all it offers. We know the entire Everett community will embrace the event and come out to watch many of the world's top figure skaters compete."

2008 Skate America will be presented locally by the Tulalip Tribes and community partners Snohomish County of Economic Development and the Snohomish County Tourism Bureau.

"We're pleased to host this exciting skating event," Snohomish County tourism bureau manager Steve Pottle said. "Figure skating has a worldwide following, and we are excited to host the skaters, officials, foreign dignitaries, visitors and press here in Snohomish County."

Skate America is an Olympic-style international figure skating event featuring three days of competition in ladies, men's, pairs and ice dancing. The event annually attracts more than 60 world-class figure skaters. Past champions include five-time World and nine-time U.S. champion Michelle Kwan, 2002 Olympic bronze medalist Timothy Goebel, 2002 Olympic pairs champions Jamie Sale and David Pelletier of Canada, 1992 Olympic champion Kristi Yamaguchi and 1984 Olympic champion Scott Hamilton.

"The road is short -- 120 miles and 16 months are all that separate these skaters from the 2010 Olympics (which will be held in nearby Vancouver, Canada)," said Laura Lee and Steve Baker, the event's producers and co-founders of Production Sports. "We are inviting the world to experience the passion, care, culture and adventurous spirit that is the Pacific Northwest."

Single-session ticket prices for 2008 Skate America start at \$20 and are available beginning in the spring of 2008 at the Comcast Arena Box Office, charge by phone at 866.332.TIXX or online at [ComcastArenaEverett.com](http://ComcastArenaEverett.com). Reservations for the gold-, silver- and bronze-level weekend all-event packs will be taken beginning at 12 p.m. on Oct. 24. Prices for weekend all-event packs start at \$125. The event schedule, as well as information on sponsorships, lodging, transportation and local attractions, can be found on the event's official web site, [2008SkateAmerica.com](http://2008SkateAmerica.com).

2007 Skate America is being held this week at the Sovereign Center in Reading, Pa. 2006 Skate America took place at the Hartford Civic Center in Hartford, Conn., where U.S. skaters won medals in all four disciplines and took home five of the 12 total medals. **Kimmie Meissner** (ladies), Evan Lysacek (men's) and **Melissa Gregory & Denis Petukhov** (ice dancing) each won silver in their respective disciplines, while pairs teams **Rena Inoue & John Baldwin** and **Naomi Nari Nam & Themis Lefftheris** captured gold and bronze, respectively.

Other annual stops on the Grand Prix Series include Skate Canada, Cup of China, Trophée Eric Bompard (France), Cup of Russia and NHK Trophy (Japan). The Grand Prix Final takes place each December and rotates among the countries that host the ISU Grand Prix events.

### **The Comcast Arena at Everett Events Center**

The 10,000-seat, \$71.5 million multi-purpose complex was developed by the Everett Public Facilities District and hosts events including concerts, rodeos, ice skating and family shows. Home to the Everett Silvertips, a Western Hockey League franchise, the venue also accommodates other sporting events such as basketball, volleyball, wrestling and gymnastics. The Comcast Community Ice Rink is used for public skating, local hockey leagues and much more. Global Spectrum ([global-spectrum.com](http://global-spectrum.com)), the fastest growing firm in the public assembly facility management field, has more than 70 facilities throughout the United States and Canada. The Philadelphia-based company is part of one of the world's largest sports and entertainment firms Comcast-Spectacor.

### **Tulalip Tribes**

The Tulalip Tribes are federally recognized successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish and other tribes and bands signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott. The more than 22,000-acre Tulalip Indian Reservation is located north of Everett and the Snohomish River and west of Marysville, Wash. Tribal government provides health and dental clinics, family and senior housing, utilities, schools, childcare, higher education assistance, recreation, cultural and historical preservation and activities. The tribes maintain an aggressive environmental preservation program, both on and off of the reservation, to protect the Snohomish region's natural resources: marine waters, tidelands, fresh water rivers and lakes, wetlands and forests. As of July 2007, the tribe had 3,848 members.

### **Production Sports**

Production Sports was founded on a passion and a dream. A passion to bring elite Olympic sport to the youth of the Pacific Northwest by making the dream of International sporting events a reality in the Puget Sound. This Edmonds-based non-profit company, was founded in September 2008 by Laura Lee and Steve Baker. Steve's life-long experience in figure skating as a World team member for the United Kingdom, coach and skating director couples seamlessly with Laura's event management skills and experience. 2008 Skate America is their first International sporting event.

### **U.S. Figure Skating**

*U.S. Figure Skating is the national governing body for the sport of figure skating in the United States as recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and the International Skating Union. U.S. Figure Skating is comprised of approximately 1,425 member clubs and Basic Skills programs representing nearly 184,000 members. U.S. Figure Skating is charged with the development of the sport on all levels within the United States, including athletes, officials, sanctioning of events and exhibitions, and establishing the rules and guidelines by which the sport is governed.*