

Media Advisory

July 20, 2009

For Immediate Release

80 International Skaters Take Pre-Olympic Spin at the OVAL

Speed Skating USA, Japan, Korea and Norway have come to get used to the ice and the building prior to the Games

Richmond, BC – In a scene best compared to NASCAR, the ice at the Richmond Olympic Oval will host up to 50 skaters at a time whipping around the 400m track at speeds up to 80 km/hr. July 20 to August 2, 2009 is one of three international team access periods at the OVAL. The others are September 21 – October 4 and November 15 – 30, 2009.

“The Richmond Olympic Oval has been and will continue to be the most open and accessible Olympic venue prior to the Games in history,” said Aran Kay, Oval spokesperson. “This is true for both athletes and the public.”

Teams present during this access period include Team USA, Japan, Korea and a handful of athletes from Team Norway. International teams have access to the OVAL ice from 8am – 6pm each day. The full training schedule is below.

Training Schedule:

Date	Ice - AM 8:00-9:45	Ice - AM 10:15-12:00	Ice - PM 14:00-15:45	Ice - PM 16:15-18:00
July 20	JPN, KOR	USA	JPN, USA	
July 21	JPN	KOR, USA	JPN, KOR	
July 22	JPN	KOR, USA	JPN, USA	
July 23	JPN	KOR, USA	JPN	
July 24	JPN	KOR, USA	JPN, KOR	
July 25	JPN	KOR, USA	JPN, USA	
July 26	JPN	USA	JPN	
July 27	JPN	KOR, USA	JPN, USA	
July 28	JPN	KOR, USA	JPN	
July 29	JPN	KOR, USA	JPN, USA	
July 30	JPN	USA	JPN, USA	
July 31	JPN	USA	JPN, USA	
August 1	JPN	USA	JPN, USA	
August 2	JPN	USA	JPN	

* - team Norway schedule currently unavailable.



About the Richmond Olympic Oval

The Richmond Olympic Oval, a breathtaking venue on the banks of the Fraser River, has already become a hallmark of public accessibility, environmental sustainability and world-class sportsmanship. Home to speed skating during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, post-Games the Oval will become an international gathering place for health, wellness and sports excellence.

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