

FROM

Mary Wong for information about covering this event, or for interviewing athletes, call 510-886-0565, or Bob Payne at 408-773-1854

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SPEEDSKATING
ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLYMPIC SPEEDSKATING IN SAN JOSE

The National Short-Track Ice Speedskating Championships will be held in San Jose March 19-21 at the San Jose Ice Centre.

Men and women speed skaters from all across the United States compete for the National titles in age-divisions for youth through veterans.

In short track speed skating groups of four or five skaters race on a 111 meter oval track on a hockey rink. Skaters are disqualified for deliberate bumping or blocking.

Close contact at high speeds with drafting, passing and breaking away, make this an exciting sport to watch.

The fastest skaters reach speeds of over 25 miles per hour, circling the track in under 10 seconds. The first blade across the line wins!

Skaters wear protective gear and there are pads along the walls, to protect skaters in case of crashes.

Limited supply of tickets available. \$5 per day or \$10 for three days. The rink is at 1500 10th St., the corner of 10th and Alma St., near Spartan Stadium and Kelley Park.

Racing: Friday noon to 5:00. Saturday 9 to 5:30. Sunday 9:00 to 4:00.
Parking is free at the rink.

NCSA c/o Mark Schecter
3735 Maple Ave.
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 530-8064
schecter@emf.net

November 28, 1997

Dear California Speedskater,

First, a note about timing...

This packet is reaching you months after its normal due date. This is due in part to the timing of elections for NCSA officers, and in part to my absence from skating for the last two months, due to work, vacation, and some sick time. I apologize for the delay, and will do everything possible to get everything taken care of quickly. I would appreciate your cooperation and assistance in returning all necessary forms and payment to me without delay. Use the checklist on the back to be sure you have everything. Thanks!

And now, to the heart of the matter...

The members of the Northern California Speedskating Association (NCSA) invite you to support Speedskating in our area by submitting your NCSA and Amateur Speedskating Union (ASU) dues for the 1997-98 season.

Speedskating in Northern California is made possible by the NCSA in cooperation with the ASU. Membership in both is required for all competitors racing locally, as well as for those advancing to the Olympic Festival team, the National team, and World and Olympic level competition. A current membership card will be required at all races.

In addition to giving you racing privileges, your dues support the following activities and services:

• ***The Racing Blade***

All ASU members receive the ASU publication, *The Racing Blade*. This magazine is put out by skaters, for skaters. This is where you read about upcoming ASU programs and sanctioned races, and what is happening in other clubs around the country.

• **Training Camps**

Any ASU member can attend one of many summer training camps as a means to improve technique, strength and stamina. Camps held at Olympic training centers offer one week room and board, ice time and coaching for a nominal fee.

• **Insurance**

The ASU provides liability insurance for associations, clubs, officers, officials, and coaches. This allows its members to operate skating programs around the country.

• **A Vote for Speedskating**

As a member of the NCSA and the ASU, you have a vote on NCSA elections and other matters put to the membership.

• **ASU Convention**

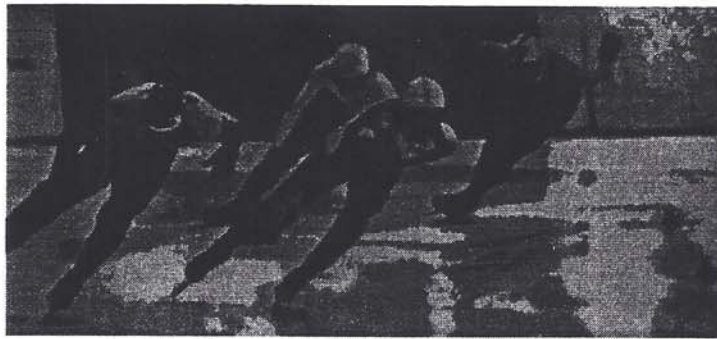
Your dues allows your voice to be heard at the ASU convention by defraying some of the travel costs incurred by your NCSA representative. Issues that affect us directly are decided at the convention. Last year, for example, the NCSA won the bid to host the 1999 National Short Track Speedskating Championships.

• **ASU Handbook**

Each member will receive an ASU Handbook which contains the racing rules, a history of Speedskating, and National, Olympic and World Team records for both Short Track and Long Track speedskating.

(continued)

LateNight Speed Skating!



at the Oakland Ice Center

10:30pm every Wednesday
\$8.00 for 1 1/2 hours



Hockey Skaters Welcome!

Great for fitness and to improve your top end speed.

Session is coached.

Speed Skating Rentals Available-- boots and/or blades.



Coaches provided by the Northern California Speedskating Association