FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Contact: Matt Whewell (mwhewell@usspeedskating.org)
        Austin Controulis (acontroulis@usspeedskating.org)

US Speedskating to Host Long and Short Track US Championships
at Utah Olympic Oval on January 6-8
15 Olympians to headline the weekend of racing

KEARNS, Utah – US Speedskating in partnership with the Utah Olympic Oval and the Utah Sports Commission will host the long track and short track US Championships on January 6-8 at the Utah Olympic Oval. Each day, long track racing will consume the morning portion followed by short track racing beginning in the afternoon.

Over 150 skaters are anticipated to race during the three-days of competition. Registered to compete are 15 Olympians. Full lists of registered participants skating this weekend can be found at the following links under the participants tab: Long Track and Short Track.

All races are free to the public and on Saturday, January 7 from noon-5 p.m., US Speedskating will have Cupbop and Fiore Wood Fired Pizza food trucks from the Food Truck League on site. In addition, USS sponsors KT TAPE and Cascade Speed Skates will be present to provide demonstrations and items for racers and fans. For more information about the weekend event, visit the Utah Olympic Legacy page here.

Below is a schedule of events for the weekend:

Friday, January 6
Long Track: 500m 1 & 2, W 3000m, M 5000m (racing starts at 9 a.m.)
Short Track: 500m, 1000m, 1500m (racing begins at 3:40 p.m.)

Saturday, January 7
Long Track: 1500m, W 5000m, M 10000m (racing starts at 9 a.m.)
Short Track: 500m finals, 1500m finals (racing begins at 3:40 p.m.)

Sunday, January 8
Long Track: 1000m, Mass Start (racing starts at 9 a.m.)
Short Track: 1000m finals, 3000m super finals (racing begins at 1:40 p.m.)

The U.S. team has compiled 17 total ISU World Cup medals to start the season and have set multiple short track National Records. Heather Bergsma (High Point, N.C.) leads the way with six overall medals, five of which are gold. She currently leads the Grand World Cup standings at 655 points.

Joey Mantia (Ocala, Fla.) has collected three podium finishes including his first career gold in the Mass Start. Two-time Olympic champion Shani Davis (Chicago, Ill.) has two podium finishes and now tops the all-time rankings for career World Cup points.

On the short track side, John-Henry Krueger (Pittsburgh, Pa.) won a bronze medal at World Cup Salt Lake City and most recently the men’s 5000m relay team made the podium at World Cup Gangneung, the official Olympic test event for the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Games.

###
About US Speedskating
From Pond to Podium, we are US Speedskating. We grow and nurture a sport where all ages can experience the thrill of speed and the camaraderie of the skating community. US Speedskating is responsible for the development of speed skating from grassroots to the highest elite racing programs. US Speedskating is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and the International Skating Union as the governing body for the sport of speed skating in the United States. The Organization has won 86 Olympic medals to-date, making it one of the most successful sports in U.S. Olympic history. US Speedskating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, on Facebook and at www.usspeedskating.org.

About Utah Olympic Oval
Built in 2001 just in time for the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games, Utah Olympic Oval is located in the community of Kearns, just 16 miles west of Salt Lake City, Utah. The five-acre venue houses Utah's only 400-meter speed skating oval and two international-sized ice sheets as well as a state-of-the-art four-lane 442-meter running track. Today, Utah Olympic Oval is a dynamic multi-use facility focused on developing and growing participation in ice sports in the state of Utah. Designated an official U.S.Olympic Training Site by the United States Olympic Committee, the venue is headquarters for U.S. Speedskating, ensuring a legacy of continued growth and international success for the sport. With 10 Olympic records and eight world records, the venue stands uncontested as the 'Fastest Ice on Earth.' For more information about the venue, please visit UtahOlympicLegacy.org or call 801-968-6825.