

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Olympians Headline the 2016 Short Track Desert Classic**

**KEARNS, Utah** – Olympians **J.R. Celski** (Federal Way, Wash.), **Chris Creveling** (Kitnersville, Pa.) and **Jessica Smith** (Melvindale, Mich.) are expected to highlight the field for this weekend's Short Track Desert Classic at the Utah Olympic Oval.

"We've been training really hard all summer and our group is getting really strong," said Creveling. "The Desert Classic allows us to get out of our comfort zone and look for some speed before World Cup Trials in October."

The two-day event is slated for Aug. 13-14.

In addition to those three Olympians, the rest of the 2016-17 Short Track National Team is expected to compete throughout the two days: **Lexi Burkholder** (Pittsburgh, Pa.), **Adam Callister** (Salt Lake City, Utah), **Keith Carroll Jr.** (Honey Brook, Pa.), **Kimi Goetz** (Flemington, N.J.), **Thomas Hong** (Laurel, Md.), **Casey Mullarkey** (Cleveland, Ohio), **Kristen Santos** (Fairfield, Conn.), **April Shin** (Rockville, Md.), and **Aaron Tran** (Federal Way, Wash.).

Joining the Short Track National Team will be members of the 2016-17 U.S. Short Track Junior Development Team. Junior skaters arrived in Salt Lake a week before the event to gain exposure to the National Training Program.

Long Track skater **Jonathan Garcia** (Houston, Texas) is also registered for the event. Garcia was a member of the 2014 U.S. Olympic Long Track team that competed in Sochi, Russia, and is currently on the 2016-17 U.S. Long Track National Team.

The Desert Classic will mark the first-ever competition for Team Ireland, who recently became sanctioned by the International Skating Union. Other participating countries include Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

The 2016 Short Track Desert Classic will begin on Saturday, Aug. 13 through Sunday, Aug. 14 with races commencing at 9 a.m. MT.

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### **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](http://www.usspeedskating.org).