



# USSPEEDSKATING PRESS RELEASE

5662 South Cougar Lane | Kearns UT 84118

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Long Track World Cup Qualifiers to be Held at the Utah Olympic Oval**

*14 Olympians are set to race over four days of competition*

**KEARNS, Utah** – US Speedskating will hold the Long Track Fall World Cup Qualifiers on Oct. 11-15, at the Utah Olympic Oval. Over the four-day competition, skaters will be competing to earn start positions on the US Speedskating Long Track World Cup Team for the ISU World Cups leading up to the 2018 Winter Games:

World Cup #1 – Heerenveen, Netherlands	Nov. 10-12, 2017
World Cup #2 – Stavanger, Norway	Nov. 17-19, 2017
World Cup #3 – Calgary, Canada	Dec. 1-3, 2017
World Cup #4 – Salt Lake City, Utah	Dec. 8-10, 2017

The men's competition will feature two-time Olympic Champion **Shani Davis** (Chicago, Ill.) and four-time Olympian **KC Boutiette** (Tacoma, Wash.), who became the oldest skater to win an ISU World Cup medal last season at the age of 46 in Nagano, Japan, when he took silver in the Mass Start.

Joining Davis and Boutiette is two-time Olympian and current American record holder in the 500m, **Mitch Whitmore** (Waukesha, Wisc.). In addition, Olympians **Emery Lehman** (Oak Park, Ill.), **Jonathan Garcia** (Houston, Texas), **Joey Mantia** and Olympic silver medalists and 2010 teammates in the team pursuit, **Brian Hansen** (Chicago, Ill.) and **Trevor Marsicano** (Milwaukee, Wisc.) are scheduled to compete.

Seven Olympians are expected to compete on the women's side, including the current 1000m and 1500m World Champion and two-time Olympian **Heather Bergsma** (High Point, N.C.). Joining Bergsma will be the 2015-16 World Sprint Champion and 2014 Olympian **Brittany Bowe** (Ocala, Fla.), as well as 2014 Olympians **Kelly Gunther** (Clinton Township, Mich.) and **Sugar Todd** (Omaha, Neb.).

Also competing in the women's field will be 2010 Olympians, **Nancy Swider-Peltz, Jr.** (Chicago, Ill.), **Rebekah Bradford-Plath** (Apple Valley, Minn.) and three-time Olympian **Maria Lamb** (River Falls, Wisc.).

The first four ISU World Cups will determine the number of country quota spots for the 2018 Winter Games in PyeongChang. The U.S. team can earn a maximum of 10 skaters per gender for the Olympics.

Below is the schedule of events:

	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
Day 1: Wednesday, Oct. 11	Mass Start (#1)	Mass Start (#1)
Day 2: Friday, Oct. 13	500m (#1), 500m (#2), 3000m	500m (#1), 500m (#2), 5000m
Day 3: Saturday, Oct. 14	1500m, 5000m	1500m, 10000m
Day 4: Sunday, Oct. 15	1000m, Mass Start (#2)	1000m, Mass Start (#2)

Competition is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. MT on Wednesday and 9 a.m. MT for days 2-4. The event is free and open to the public. If you can't attend, [USSpeedskating.org](http://USSpeedskating.org) will host a live stream of the races.

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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).