



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## SEVEN LOCAL SKATERS QUALIFY FOR 2008 U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SAINT PAUL

**SAINT PAUL/MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.** – Seven local figure skaters have qualified to compete at the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships coming to Saint Paul's Xcel Energy Center, Jan. 20-27. This weekend, 14 local skaters competed against skaters from more than 20 states at the Midwestern Sectionals in Rochester Hills, Mich. Skaters who finished in the top four in each discipline qualified for the U.S. Championships.

Skaters that have qualified are:

SKATER (BIRTHDATE)	EVENT	HOMETOWN	FIGURE SKATING CLUB	PLACE	SCORE
Kirsten Olson (10/20/91)	Junior Ladies	Savage, Minn.	Starlight Ice Dance Club	2 <sup>nd</sup>	148.68
Alex Johnson (5/15/90)	Junior Men	Minnetonka, Minn.	Braemar-City of Lakes FSC	1 <sup>st</sup>	199.26
Angie Lien (1/16/81)	Senior Ladies	Superior, Wis.	Duluth FSC	4 <sup>th</sup>	132.01
Molly Oberstar (11/12/88)	Senior Ladies	Duluth, Minn.	Duluth FSC	1 <sup>st</sup>	144.35
Mark Ladwig	Senior Pairs	Moorhead, Minn.	Red River Valley FSC	BYE	NA
Eliot Halverson (11/8/90)	Senior Men	Saint Paul, Minn.	Saint Paul FSC	4 <sup>th</sup>	189.59
Rohene Ward (6/28/83)	Senior Men	Minneapolis, Minn.	Starlight Ice Dance Club	2 <sup>nd</sup>	196.77

Also, Michael Chau of Oakdale, Minn., who trains in Florida along with partner Tracy Tanovich, has qualified for the U.S. Championships in junior pairs. The pair placed first with a score of 128.76. For complete Midwestern Sectionals results visit [www.icenetwork.com](http://www.icenetwork.com).

"It is quite an achievement to make it to the Sectional competition, let alone qualify for the U.S. Championships," said 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame Inductee and Minnetonka, Minn., native Janet Carpenter. "Minnesotans should be very proud we have such incredible talent in our backyard. I hope everyone comes out to support these skaters at what will be one of the most memorable competitions of their careers." Carpenter is the only U.S. figure skater in U.S. history that has competed, judged and served as team leader at the Olympic level. She will be inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Saint Paul on Friday, Jan. 25, during the week of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

The U.S. Figure Skating Championships, held annually since 1914, is the nation's most prestigious figure skating event. The 2008 competition will take place Jan. 20-27, at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul and be nationally televised live on NBC. Over the course of a week the event will crown 12 national champions in ladies, men's, pairs and ice dancing on the senior, junior and novice levels. The seven-day event is expected to draw over 125,000 fans and have an economic impact in excess of \$30 million.

Single-session, U.S. Championships Skating Spectacular, all-event and championship weekend ticket packages for the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships are on sale now at the Xcel Energy Center Box Office or online at [www.saintpaul2008.com](http://www.saintpaul2008.com). For group ticket information, call (651) 312-3486. All-event ticket packages start at \$295.