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Contact: Bill Seely, Executive Director
901-387-4449
bseely@usacheer.net

INTERNATIONAL CHEERLEADING TEAM CHOSEN

USA Cheer team will head to International Cheer Union 2009 World Cup

MEMPHIS, TN, January 20, 2008 – The USA Federation for Sport Cheerleading (USA Cheer) has announced the two national teams that will represent the United States at the International Cheer Union's 2009 World Cup at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL on April 24, 2009. Sixty of the top United States cheerleaders were chosen to form an all-girl and a coed team that will compete internationally against cheerleaders from more than 50 nations.

Cheerleaders were chosen after a three-part selection process. After filling out an online application, then eligible cheerleaders were invited to one of four regional tryouts. From there, the selection committee chose the final 60 cheerleaders. The winning USA Cheer teams were announced during the 2009 College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championship at the Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, FL.

The team will be coached by James Speed, Head Coach of the University of Louisville cheerleading squads and owner of Gym Time Cheer Gym; Jomo Thompson, the Head Coach of the University of Kentucky; and Tony Nash, the Head Coach of Morehead State University, all well known and winning coaches.

Bill Seely, Executive Director of USA Cheer, explains what each coach brings to the concept. "There were three key criteria we looked for when selecting who would lead our teams this year. Our focus is to support all of cheerleading and serve both school-based and gym-based cheer programs, so it was important that the coaches have a strong background in both areas. Next, we took into consideration their work with college age athletes, and finally their overall track record. All three coaches have won National Championships in both the school and all star worlds. We are fortunate to have such great coaches to lead the first ever dream teams for cheerleading."

James Speed adds, "This is such an exciting project to be a part of, and a great way to showcase the amazingly talented athletes in the United States on an international level."

For a complete list of the cheerleaders chosen for USA Cheer, visit www.usacheer.net