

International Cheerleading Team To Be Chosen January 2009

Memphis, TN, November 26, 2008 – The USA Federation for Sport Cheerleading (USA Cheer) has begun the process of selecting two national teams to represent the United States at the International Cheer Union's 2009 World Cup. They will be choosing 60 of the top cheerleaders to form an all-girl and a coed team that will compete against the best cheerleaders in more than 50 nations on April 24.

The selection process consists of three stages. The first step is to fill out an online application on the USA Cheer website (www.usacheer.net), where interested athletes can fill out the team application and upload video demonstrating their skills. From there, USA Cheer will invite qualified cheerleaders to one of four regional tryouts.

After the regional tryouts, the selection committee will make the final cuts to form the first-ever USA Cheer team. The announcement will be made on January 18, 2009 during the 2009 College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championship at the Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, FL.

After a national search, USA Cheer has named 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 Toni Nash, the Head Coach of Morehead State University, to be the coaches for the USA Cheer teams this year.

Bill Seely, Executive Director of USA Cheer explains why the three were chosen. "There were three key criteria we looked for when selecting who would lead our teams this year. Our focus as an organization is to support all of cheerleading and serve each community in the industry, 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 more information, visit www.usacheer.net.