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2008 College Table Tennis National Championships

April 11-13 in Rochester, Minnesota

WEBSITE: <http://www.nctta.org/champs/2008/index.html>

****NEWS RELEASE****

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THERE'S NO "I" IN TEAM, BUT THERE IS IN "SINGLES"

From as far away as San Diego and San Francisco to as close as Minneapolis and Mankato, student athletes from around the country will soon converge upon Rochester. Table tennis titles are on the line.

On the morning of Fri. Apr. 11, 80 athletes from 40 schools in 20 states will kick off the 2008 College Table Tennis National Championships. As part of the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) competition, players will start preliminary rounds for men and women's singles, men and women's doubles, and mixed doubles. The event is also sponsored by the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) and the Rochester Amateur Sports Commission (RASC).

"We are really excited to see what the outcome is going to be," said Michelle Smith, ACUI Director of Educational Programs and Services. "We found a great location and I'm sure we'll do a great job executing it as well."

"RASC brings professionalism and a wealth of experience in putting on championship-style sporting events," said David DelVecchio, NCTTA Treasurer. "It's been great to be able to work with them in the planning and preparations for this event."

Although many will also be vying for team titles throughout the weekend, nearly forty percent of the participants will only take part in the individual events. The top four in each of ACUI's 15 regions, along with several wildcards, earned the right to contend for the national titles.

The tournament includes a handful of participants representing Minnesota-based universities. They include Anders Truelson and Ming Curran of the University of Minnesota, Jianxiong Tan of Minnesota State University at Mankato, and Subrat Acharya of St. Cloud State University. Several schools had numerous qualifiers, including Texas Wesleyan University with 11, USC with 8, and Princeton University with 5.

"We continue to be very strong in table tennis. To be able to send 80 athletes from coast-to-coast, to a tournament of this magnitude is unbelievable," said Smith.

"It is good we are able to keep both the individual and team events on the same weekend," said Willy Leparulo, NCTTA President. "It is an effective partnership in terms of keeping the students from having to choose one or the other."