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2009 College Table Tennis National Championships

April 3-5 in Rochester, Minnesota

WEBSITE: <http://www.nctta.com/champs/2009/index.html>

****NEWS RELEASE****

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COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS: DIVERSITY WITHIN

Although only 24 coed teams and 15 women's teams will participate in the upcoming 2008 College Table Tennis National Championships, 29 countries will be represented at the event.

The Championships arrives in Rochester, Minn. Fri., Apr. 3rd and departs Sun. Apr. 5th. Play will be held at the Rochester Regional Recreational Sports Center, 851 30th Ave SE, five minutes from downtown Rochester, and is sponsored by the Rochester Amateur Sports Commission (RASC), the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA), and the Association of College Unions International (ACUI).

According to an early copy of the official event program, the following countries are listed as the homes of players competing in team play over the weekend.

1. Bosnia	7. Croatia	13. Iran	19. Mongolia	24. South Korea
2. Brazil	8. Egypt	14. Jamaica	20. Peru	25. Taiwan
3. Bulgaria	9. Germany	15. Japan	21. Philippines	26. Trinidad
4. Canada	10. Ghana	16. Lebanon	22. Puerto Rico	27. Thailand
5. China	11. Guyana	17. Malaysia	23. Romania	28. Venezuela
6. Colombia	12. India	18. Mexico	24. Singapore	29. Vietnam

Although participants from several schools did not list their residences, almost 50 percent of the field of 250, are from Asia or Asian descent. Table tennis is by far the most popular sport in that area of the world.

An interesting influx of competitors from South America is present uniquely this year with competitors from Venezuela, Columbia, Guyana and Brazil. Brazil alone has four competitors in the competition.

The University of Puerto Rico and the University of Toronto are the only non-American based schools competing as College Table Tennis competition reaches both our neighbors from the North in Canada to the Caribbean.

"Table Tennis is a perfect example of the international representation in collegiate athletics today." said Joseph Wells, NCTTA Vice President. "We would like to see more domestic participation as the years go on so that we can grow College Table Tennis to its highest potential."

According to www.olympic.org table tennis is the world's largest participation sport and here in Rochester the world via the College Table Tennis athletes are taking notice!