



## Sports Information

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
December 10, 2007

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### **Tickets for the U.S. Olympic & National Team Trials – Table Tennis at Drexel University in Philadelphia On Sale Now**

*U.S. Olympic & National Team Trials – Table Tennis to Start in One Month*

**Philadelphia** – Tickets are now available for the 2008 U.S. Olympic & National Team Trials for table tennis. The event will be held at the Daskalakis Athletic Center on the campus of Drexel University beginning on Jan. 10 and will conclude Jan. 13. Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Individual tickets for each day are \$10. A three-day pass is \$20. Admission is free for the Jan. 10 open qualifying event. Tickets can be purchased by calling 1-866-4-DREXEL or by visiting the Drexel ticket office located at the Daskalakis Athletic Center on Market Street between 33rd and 34th streets in Philadelphia.

The U.S. Olympic & National Team Trials are expected to draw the elite 24 table tennis athletes from across the country with 12 athletes competing in men's singles and 12 athletes competing in women's singles in a round-robin format to help determine who will represent the United States in the 2008 Olympic Games ~~in Beijing~~.

The event, combined with the U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Gymnastics coming to Philadelphia in June 2008, makes Philadelphia one of only two U.S. cities to host two U.S. Olympic Trials events leading up to the 2008 Olympic Games.

“We are proud to partner with Philadelphia and Drexel University to bring one of our most prestigious events to the City of Brotherly Love. Philadelphia put together a compelling bid, and we are confident this will be a successful event,” said Teodor Gheorghe, Head Coach, USA Table Tennis (USATT). “In January, fans will have an excellent opportunity to see the nation's top table tennis athletes as they continue on the path to Beijing in 2008.”

“On behalf of Drexel University, I am certain that we will stage a well-run and visible event of the highest competitive caliber that will also serve as a showcase for the sport of table tennis,” said Dr. Eric Zillmer, the director of athletics at Drexel University. “The Olympic Games celebrate an essential part of what makes us human. It is thrilling to me

personally that the 'road' to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, at least for table tennis, will go through Philadelphia and Drexel University."

"This is another great example of Philadelphia's diversity as a leading sports destination," said Larry Needle, executive director of the Philadelphia Sports Congress, a division of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau. "With Drexel as host, and the support of our amateur sports community, we know that this will be a tremendous event for the city."

"Drexel University is proud and honored to host the Olympic team trials in table tennis," said Dr. Constantine N. Papadakis, the President of Drexel University. "It is exciting for the University to serve as the location of such a high-stakes event in which teams will compete for the privilege of representing the United States at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing."

Leading up to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, there will be a significant Olympic presence occurring in Philadelphia throughout the year, highlighted by the two Olympic Trials events. In addition to the Trials events, Philadelphia is also planning to host a USA Boxing event as well as a public celebration marking the Opening Ceremonies of the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.

The U.S. Olympic Team Trials for all sports is a collaborative, three-way partnership between the U.S. Olympic Committee, the National Governing Bodies and the local organizing committee.

The Philadelphia Local Organizing Committee consists of Drexel University, the Philadelphia Sports Congress, Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau, Philadelphia Olympic & International Sports Project, and the area table tennis community.

Philadelphia boasts an impressive track record of hosting many premier sporting events, including the 2005 and 2006 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championships, 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup, 2002 NBA All-Star Game, 2001 U.S. Gymnastics Championships, 2001 and 2002 ESPN X Games, 2000 NCAA Women's Final Four, the Army/Navy football game and the 1998 U.S. Figure Skating Championships.