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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CXC MIDWEST JUNIOR OLYMPIC UPDATE-CLASSIC SPRINT

18 Midwest athletes qualify for heats in a warm and mushy classic sprint- Monday, March 10, 2008, 9:30 pm AST

Anchorage, AK (March 11, 2008)

Today's Midwest team racing was exciting and awesome. The weather was a carbon copy of the previous day (Low of 31` - high of 45`), so the wax testing and ski choices from Sunday's preparation were right on. After the morning individual time trial qualification races, a total of 18 Midwest athletes finished in the top 24 in their group and qualified to move up to the afternoon head-to-head heats with 6 athletes contending in each heat. In each of the 4 quarterfinal heats for each of the age groups, 3 athletes moved on to the semifinals, and then were guaranteed a spot in either the A final or B final. For the Midwest, a total of 6 athletes moved on to the semifinals and A & B Finals. Each of these 6 athletes placed in the top ten in their Age Group.

Summer Ellefson – 9th in Female J2 (3rd in B Final)
Jessie Diggins – 2nd in Female J1
Melanie Hoffman – 7th in Female OJ (1st in B Final)
Chris Bowler – 8th in Male J1 (2nd in B Final)
Joe DuBay – 1st in Male J1
Doug DeBold – 2nd in Male OJ

After a long day at Kincaid Nordic Park, the athletes retired at 5:30 to an excellent dinner and an evening of rest back at their hotel in Anchorage. Thanks to all the parents and fans here to cheer on the Midwest athletes, as well as all the volunteers and sponsors who have helped get the athletes here.

You can continue to follow the results, photos, and action this week at the 2008 JO website at <http://www.anchoragenordicski.com/jo2008/index.html>. Additional photos will be posted during the week at www.shoffmanphoto.smugmug.com. Also wish them luck as they try to reach their individual skiing goals. We'll be back with another update tomorrow after the official course inspection day for Wednesday's 5/10 free technique interval start distance race.

Head Coaches Karen Cook & Bill Pierce

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Chris Bowler-2nd J1 B Final



Doug DeBold-2nd OJ



Jesse Diggins-2nd J1



Joe Dubay-J1 Champion



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Last minute ski prep



Summer Ellefson-3rd J2 B Final



Melanie Hoffman-1st OJ B Final



Coach Fish testing wax with a smile

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