



CONTACT: Mike Meier
PHONE: 214-907-9221
EMAIL: mikesmeier@yahoo.com

2008 College Table Tennis National Championships

April 11-13 in Rochester, Minnesota

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

****NEWS RELEASE****

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2008

COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS COMES TO ROCHESTER

It was hosted in 2005 and 2006 in Texas. Then it moved to Ohio in 2007. This year, Minnesota is the site for the college national title rights for one of the most popular sports in the world: table tennis!

The 2008 College Table Tennis National Championships come to Rochester, Minn. Fri., Apr. 11 through Sun. Apr. 13. The action takes place in the 44,000-square foot field house at the Rochester Regional Recreational Sports Center, 851 30th Ave SE, five minutes from downtown Rochester.

More than 250 male and female student athletes from 56 schools in 23 states and Puerto Rico will vie for seven individual and team titles. The event is sponsored by the Rochester Amateur Sports Commission (RASC), the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA), and the Association of College Unions International (ACUI).

"We have never teamed up with a sports commission to do our championships, so this year's event is certainly a trial run," said Willy Leparulo, NCTTA President. "I can't speak for others, but the Rochester Amateur Sports Commission is a great partner, and I predict an exciting outcome."

"We had a good experience with table tennis before, and we thought it was a win/win for both of our organizations," said John Larsen, RASC representative.

In individual competition, more than 80 participants from 15 regions will partake for titles in men and women's singles, men and women's doubles, and mixed doubles. Players qualified through ACUI Region Tournaments throughout the country, and most will cover their own expenses.

"The majority is paying out of pocket for registration, travel, or all of the above," said Michelle Smith, ACUI Director of Educational Programs and Services. "It is incredible to see our students' passion for this amazing sport."

As for team play, 24 co-ed teams and 11 women's teams from 17 divisions will have it out for titles as well. Eight schools earned bids for both events, and five colleges and universities made it to the Championships their first year as NCTTA chartered schools. Perennial powerhouse Texas Wesleyan University, located in Fort Worth, is the odds on favorite to win both events. They have garnered the past four co-ed titles, as well as the 2007 women's title, with most of their stars returning. But this year's field is the strongest ever.

"I think this year the Championships showcase great talent from every school, so I can say that Wesleyan will definitely be challenged," said Leparulo.