



For Immediate Release

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MAKOWSKY BROTHERS HEADING TO WORLDS, VYING FOR OLYMPICS

(Richmond, B.C.) Regina brothers Lucas and Mykola Makowsky took one step closer to the dream of skating in the 2010 Olympics by both qualifying for Canada's World Cup speed skating team Monday.

The brothers met after the race in the center of the Richmond Olympic Oval. "We're going to World Cups... together!" grinned Mykola. It was anything but a certainty at the start of the day.

In 2008, younger brother Lucas had pre-qualified in three events the 1500, 5000 and 10000 meters, based on his outstanding performances in 2008-09 season. Mykola had one more realistic chance at making the World Cup team. He had to place in the top five in the 1500m. The competition included half a dozen world cup medal winners.

Skating in the first pair, Lucas and teammate Denny Morrison set a blistering pace. Canadian Champion Morrison crossed the line in 1:46.39, narrowly missing the track record of 1:46:17 set at the 2009 World Single Distance Championships in March. Lucas was close behind in 1:47.42.

Mykola skated in the sixth of 14 pairings in a time of 1:49:16. Then, he nervously joined Lucas to watch his teammates skate as everyone else tried and failed to get under 1:49.

"I heard someone yell 'Go Riders!' just as I stepped up to the start line and I loved it," said Mykola, nephew of Saskatchewan Roughrider veteran Gene Makowsky. "I see the Saskatchewan flag waving in the crowd all the time. I think Catriona started a trend," he added laughing.

-2-

The Canadian team is allowed five male 1500 skaters in World Cup races held in Europe and in North America this fall leading up to the Vancouver Winter Olympics. The World Cup will help determine how many skaters Canada will be allowed in the Olympics.

The Makowsky brothers and their Saskatchewan National teammates; Turin Olympic veterans Kerry Dankers (Melville) and Justin Warsylewicz (Regina), and first-year member William Dutton (Humboldt) will compete for Olympic team spots starting December 27 in Calgary.

-30-

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