



# Skating Club of North Carolina

## Press Release

July 23, 2007

### Raleigh Area Figure Skating Pairs Team Appointed to Junior Grand Prix International Event

The Skating Club of North Carolina is pleased to announce the appointment of Shantel Jordan (14) and Steven Elefante (19) to the 2007 Junior Grand Prix event being held in Tallin, Estonia, September 20-23, 2007. If the pair team scores well, they will then qualify for another International event in October.

The Junior Grand Prix (JPG) is a series of 8 international figure skating events held in the early fall every year. Competitors accumulate points based on placement. If placing within the top three or four, another Junior Grand Prix event is assigned. After all 8 competitions have completed, the top 8 skaters or teams in each discipline (Ladies, Men, Pairs, Dance) with the most points qualify for the Junior Grand Prix Final being held this December in Gdansk, Poland.

Shantel and Steven started training together under the direction of Elena Betchke and Mirko Mueller-Goolsbey in July of 2006. They qualified for the 2007 US National Championships after only 6 months of training together and placed 15th in Senior Pairs.

“Prior to skating with Shantel, I had no pairs experience,” Steven relates. “Nationals was my first real competition as a pair skater. We get along very well and we have fun working together everyday on the ice.”

Their primary coach, Elena Betchke, who has won Olympic, World, and numerous professional titles, comments on the positive experience this appointment will give both Shantel and Steven and all local area skaters.

“Going to JPG is very important to me and the kids because it will be our first international event. It is very exciting to be chosen to represent the USA overseas. I also hope that kids' success will show our local kids that everything is possible if you work hard.”

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**SCNC Publicity Chairman:** Ron Seitz

**Contact Information:** 919-786-0516 (evenings) 919-302-7935 (mobile) **email:** [rseitz1@nc.rr.com](mailto:rseitz1@nc.rr.com)

**SCNC President: Paul Draovitch** 919-363-8571 (evenings) 546-6323 (work) **email:** [paul.draovitch@pgnmail.com](mailto:paul.draovitch@pgnmail.com)

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Assisting Elena is Olympic competitor, World's bronze medalist, and 4-time German National Pair Champion Mirko Mueller-Goolsbey along with choreographers Diana Goolsbey and Marina Zoueva.

The Skating Club of NC, Inc. is a non-profit member club of the United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA) whose mission is to promote participation in the sport of amateur figure skating by providing opportunities to participate in skating events and to demonstrate personal skill development through USFSA test and competition structures in an environment of support and good sportsmanship.

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Photo courtesy of Michele Alias, SCNC

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## Facts Sheet:

### *Figure Skater / Coach Information*

#### Shantel Jordan

- Birth date: 8/24/92
- School: Athens Drive High School. She just finished her sophomore year
- Skating History prior July 2006: 2004 US Junior Pairs Champion

#### Steven Elefante

- Birth date: 10/23/87
- School: Limestone College
- Major: Business
- Skating History prior July 2006: National Competitor in singles

#### Elena Betchke

- Place of birth: St. Petersburg, Russia
- Coaching history: 12 years in Richmond, Virginia and North Carolina
- Skating history: Started skating at age 6 and began pairs at age 12
- Competitive history:
  - Olympic Silver medal in 1992 (Albertville, France)
  - 1989 World Bronze medalist (Paris, France)
  - World Professional Champion in 1996
  - Won US Open Professional Title in 1996, 1997
  - Won NHK Trophy (Japan) in 1991 and Lalique Trophy (France) in 1991
  - USSR National Champion in 1991
- Professional history: Performed at *Stars On Ice* between 1993 and 2000 (US and Canada)

#### Mirko Mueller-Goolsbey

- Place of birth: East Germany, lived in Berlin, went to school and trained at Olympic Sports Center
- Education: Business Communication Management (BA) from University of Applied Technology and Business, Berlin
- Competitive history:
  - 4-time German National Pair Champion
  - Olympic competitor Nagano 1998
  - Bronze medal World's 1998
  - Top 6 European 4 years in row

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