For Immediate release

Kenmore~Cascade Canoe & Kayak Team Athletes to US Team Trials

Six Kenmore~Cascade Canoe & Kayak Team athletes will compete in the US Team Trials in Oklahoma City on April 24 & 25. Junior kayaker, Ben Karlinsey, will vie for a spot in the pool of athletes to compete in the Junior World Championships in Portugal in July. Once selected, pool athletes will participate in a camp to determine places in singles, double and four-person kayak teams. The final team will be announced in early July.

Paracanoeists Hannah Pennington, Spike Kane and Alana Nichols will compete for Team USA positions at the World Cup in Duisburg, Germany. This is the first stop in the classification and qualifying process for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Next year will mark the debut of Paracananoe racing at the Paralympic Games. Athletes with disabilities are classified into three categories for men and women - those with the ability to use legs, torso and arms; torso and arms and not legs; and arms only.

Senior athletes Doug Ritchie and Emmanuel Bouchard will vie for selection to the US Senior Team – at the level of Senior World Championships and Olympic Games. Canoe/Kayak has been part of the Summer Olympic Games since 1936 and boasts the 4th most Olympic events of all the 33 Olympic sports. The Senior World Championships, to be held in Milan, Italy in August, is the first qualifier for the 2016 Olympic Games, also in Rio.

Dan Henderson, Kenmore~Cascade Head Coach, will be leading the team at Trials. “For a program still less than one year old, we have a strong team of athletes who have good chances to qualify to represent our country on the world stage,” commented Henderson. “Our athletes have spent a solid fall and winter training here in Kenmore, and we expect their efforts to have solid rewards,” he added.

The Kenmore~Cascade Canoe & Kayak Team offers programs for beginners as young as 10 years old with basic instruction and boating safety, to Juniors, Seniors, and Paracanoe athletes striving for positions on the US National Team. K~C staff has taught and coached 3 members of US Olympic Teams. Their Masters program focuses on older paddlers who seek an active outdoor lifestyle, regular training and exercise, and racing opportunities with others of their age. To find out more, check out the web site [www.KenmoreWAC.org](http://www.KenmoreWAC.org), call Cascade PaddleSports at 425-430-0111, or visit the Kenmore Waterfront Activities Center at the City of Kenmore’s Squires Landing Park. Youth, ages 10 – 13, beginner programs start on May 5.

For more information contact:

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