

## **Long Track Speedskating Phenom Erin Jackson Joins Team Bridgestone for Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018**

**Newcomer earns historic spot on Team USA after “clutch performance” at U.S. trials**

**Nashville (January 25, 2018)** – Bridgestone Americas, Inc. (Bridgestone), a subsidiary of the world’s largest tire and rubber company and a Worldwide Olympic Partner, today announced its support for U.S. Olympian Erin Jackson (long track speedskating) ahead of the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018.

Remarkably, Jackson has only been training on ice for a combined total of five months. Transitioning from a successful in-line skating career, she originally chartered a course to compete for a speedskating spot at the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. But in a stunning performance at the 2018 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Long Track, the Ocala, Florida native dropped a remarkable .7 seconds off her personal best time to finish third overall and become the first African-American woman to earn a spot on Team USA’s long track speedskating team.

“Erin knows what it means to perform your best when it matters most, and that’s exactly what she did in at the U.S. trials in Milwaukee earlier this month,” said Phil Pacsi, Vice President of Sports and Events Marketing and Training, Bridgestone Americas, Inc. “She truly embodies the notion of ‘clutch performance’ that is central to our U.S.

marketing campaign for PyeongChang 2018, as well as our global Olympic message, which aims to inspire people to persevere in pursuit of their dreams. We’re very proud to welcome her to Team Bridgestone.”

The partnership with Bridgestone marks Jackson’s first endorsement deal as an

Olympian. In addition to providing financial support and access to cutting-edge Bridgestone products and technologies, the partnership also is helping ensure Jackson sees a few familiar faces in South Korea.

“It’s been a whirlwind since I crossed the finish line at trials, but the support I’ve received has been incredible,” said Jackson. “I’m really excited to work with Bridgestone as I start this next stage of my journey and chase my dreams in PyeongChang. And it means a lot that they’re offering support at a time that will make it possible for some of my family to travel to share this special experience with me.”

Team Bridgestone athletes are selected based on criteria related to the company’s core values, their personal stories, performance attributes and community involvement.

Jackson will compete in the women’s 500 meters event on February 18 in

PyeongChang. She joins fellow Team USA athletes Nathan Chen (figure skating), Elana Meyers Taylor (bobsled), Amy Purdy (para snowboarding), Evan Strong (para snowboarding) and Ashley Wagner (figure skating) as a part of Team Bridgestone USA.

In addition to the company’s support of Team Bridgestone athlete ambassadors and its standing as a Worldwide Olympic Partner, Bridgestone is a partner of the United States Olympic Committee and U.S. Paralympics through 2024. Bridgestone also became the first Founding Partner of the Olympic Channel in August 2016, signing a four-year agreement to support the groundbreaking digital platform in its mission to celebrate the Olympic Movement and the world’s greatest athletes every day of the year.

To learn more about Team Bridgestone, visit [BridgestoneAmericas.com](https://www.bridgestoneamericas.com).

**About Bridgestone Americas, Inc.**

*Nashville, Tennessee-based Bridgestone Americas, Inc. (BSAM) is the U.S. subsidiary of Bridgestone Corporation, the world's largest tire and rubber company. BSAM and its subsidiaries develop, manufacture and market a wide range of Bridgestone, Firestone and associate brand tires to address the needs of a broad range of customers, including consumers, automotive and commercial vehicle original equipment manufacturers, and those in the agricultural, forestry and mining industries. The companies are also engaged in retreading operations throughout the Western Hemisphere and produce air springs, roofing materials, and industrial fibers and textiles. The BSAM family of*

*companies also operates the world's largest chain of automotive tire and service centers. Guided by its One Team, One Planet message, the company is dedicated to achieving a positive environmental impact in all of the communities it calls home.*

**About Bridgestone Corporation's Worldwide Olympic Partnership:**

*Bridgestone Corporation proudly announced its agreement to become an official Worldwide Partner of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on June 13, 2014. The 10-year partnership will see*

*Bridgestone Corporation serve as a Worldwide Olympic Partner at the upcoming Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018, the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, where the company's global headquarters are located, the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, and the Olympic Games Paris 2024. The Partnership also includes support for the next two Youth Olympic Games. The long-term commitment to the Olympic Movement furthers Bridgestone Corporation's proud sporting heritage and history of innovation, which extends more than 100 years, and will showcase Bridgestone Corporation's respect for diversity, commitment to community service, social responsibility and environmental stewardship – all tenets of the Olympic Charter that also lie at the heart of the Bridgestone brand.*

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<https://bridgestone.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=20295&item=122404>