



**Southern Star
(Springwood)**
Wednesday 23/07/2008

Page: 69
Section: General News
Region: Brisbane, AU
Circulation: 57891
Type: Suburban
Size: 573.92 sq.cms.



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Skaters set to sizzle with some hot times

By IAN GAULT

QUEENSLAND holds high hopes for dominating the medal stakes at the short track ice speed skating Duke Trophy competition on July 26-27 at Ice World, Boondall.

Runcorn's Jeremy Beck and Elliot Shariane, both part of the OWIA national squad, are among the favoured skaters in the men's 1500m, 1000m and 500m.

Beck and Shariane were part of Australia's 5000m relay team which finished seventh in the 2007 Short Track World Team Championships in Budapest.

In the 2007/2008 World Cup season, Beck finished 49th in the 500m, 65th in the 1000m and in 48th in the 1500m, while Shariane was 82nd in the 1000m.

Sunnybank Hills skater Tatiana Borodulina has the best chance for Queensland in the women's races.



■ Pushing limits ... Jeremy Beck and Elliot Shariane.

In her debut World Cup round competing for Australia earlier this year, she broke the Australian women's overseas 500m record and finished fifth in the 500m.

In the following and final round of the World Cup, Borodulina took the Bronze Medal in the women's 500m and finished 10th overall in the 500m.

The Duke Trophy event is

particularly significant for Borodulina and a small group of other talented women skaters from around Australia, as they will be attempting to make the times required for Australia's first women's short track Olympic relay team.

The Duke Trophy annual competition pays tribute to one of Australia's early short track speed skaters, Len Duke.



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■ Classic style ... Jeremy Beck



■ Skate expectations ... Jeremy Beck leads on the turn at Ice World, Acacia Ridge.

Picture: Richard Walker