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**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College Compton Center Shortstop to Join USA Baseball Team**

For the first time since its founding in 1992, USA Athletes International, Inc. ([www.usaai.org](http://www.usaai.org)) has invited an El Camino College Compton Center baseball player to join its USA Baseball team. Shortstop Harold Hobert will compete in the 2007 London Cup, July 9 through 16.

Now in his second year at Compton Center, Hobert leads the team in batting average (.330) and RBIs (37). Last season, he was named the team's MVP and was named South Coast Conference Second Team.

Hobert came to Compton Center from Locke High School of the Los Angeles Unified School District, where he was the only player in the history of Locke High to earn All-League honors all four years. He holds the school's record for stolen bases (109), putting him ahead of fellow Locke alumni Ozzie Smith of Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame.

Hobert's older brothers are both professional baseball players. Ray Hobert was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals and Aaron Hobert was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds. Both were drafted from Jordan High School in Long Beach. Harold was a draft pick at Locke for the Oakland A's but chose to continue his education and training.

"Harold is an outstanding player, as well as an outstanding person," said Compton Center Baseball Coach Shannon Williams, who recommended Hobert for the USA team. "This is an excellent opportunity for him and we are pursuing grants and sponsors to help make the trip possible."

USA Athletes International, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to giving amateur athletes the opportunity to participate in international Olympic-style sporting events throughout the world, while also allowing them to broaden their educational and cultural knowledge through the experience. Players are selected for participation based on recommendations by coaching professionals from across the country.

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