



# News Release

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008

## WORLD'S TOP ATHLETE TO COMPETE AT ODYSSEY

The World's top decathlete Roman Sebrle will be once again he competing at the Odyssey Arena this weekend as part of the Woodie's DIY Irish Indoor Athletics Championships, organised by Athletics Northern Ireland and Athletics Ireland. The event is supported by finding partners Belfast City Council and Sport NI.

The 33 year old star from the Czech Republic is the current World Record over the 10 track and field events (9026 points). He is also the current Olympic champion (Athens 2004), European Champion (Gothenburg August 2006) and World champion from Osaka last August when he just managed to pin the Jamaican Maurice Smith for the gold medal by a mere 32 points.

After his Osaka victory a tearful Sebrle said he considered his victory to be one of the most memorable of his many successes, especially after the edge of his right shoulder had been pierced by a javelin in training some months earlier.

Sebrle has been the world's best all round athlete for several years as shown by his 19 podium places in European World and Olympic competition.

At the Odyssey Roman will give full value to athletic enthusiasts by competing in the 60m hurdles (PB- 7.84secs), long jump (PB of 8.11m) and shot (PB of 16.47m). In the long jump event his opposition will include Athens Olympic silver medallist John Moffitt (27) of the US who took second place to teammate Dwight Phillips with a leap of 8.59m. The organisers Athletics NI have been pulling out all the stops to confirm some of the best names to compete over the two-day event which has taken place

The event will be shown on RTE on Sunday night.

Official website address with final timetable: [www.indoorathletics.net](http://www.indoorathletics.net)

For further information contact:

- **Clare McCoy on 02890 602707/ 07841804032 or Brian Hill on 07815069697**



[www.indoorathletics.net](http://www.indoorathletics.net)