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\$50,000 in Mattresses Donated to OKC Olympic Hopefuls

OKLAHOMA CITY – May 20, 2011 Olympic athletes know the importance of a good night's sleep. That's why sleeping on an air mattress has been such a challenge for some of the Olympic Hopefuls training at the OKC National High Performance Center. Today, a donation of \$50,000 in new Tempur-Pedic mattresses is putting an end to the tossing and turning.

"Most of our athletes have some sort of bed, but almost all of them are on really tight budgets – so sometimes they are sleeping on air mattresses," explained USRowing Coach Bryan Volpenhein. "Tempur-Pedic's incredibly generous donation of these mattresses will be a huge training boost for the athletes."

Tempur-Pedic mattress company decided to make the donation after being contacted by Oklahoma City physical therapist David Huslig through a local Relax the Back store.

Huslig provides physical therapy services twice a week to the athletes training at the Devon Boathouse, but noticed that the good he was doing with treatment was often undone by athletes sleeping on cots, air mattresses or even the floor.

"Everyone needs a good night's sleep, but their situation was beyond just feeling rested," Huslig said. "It was actually causing physical issues for them. These athletes give everything in hopes of making Team USA. I knew we had to do something."

Huslig contacted Relax The Back in Oklahoma City, a retailer whose staff are well-versed in spinal anatomy and health and certified in ergonomic training.

“When David first approached us, we thought it was the right thing to do to help these athletes who represent our country,” said Michael Dean, owner of Oklahoma’s Relax The Back Stores. “We know a lot about spinal health and the benefits of restorative sleep, and we knew we wanted to help with this project.”

Dean contacted Michael Mason of Tempur-Pedic and shared the story of the OKCNHPC athletes. As a result, Tempur-Pedic has donated 25 mattresses and pillows for the OKCNHPC program – a retail value of approximately \$50,000 Dean said.

“We have both rowers and kayakers who are on track to make the U.S. Olympic team,” Coach Volpehein said. “This support they’re getting – literally in the form of therapeutic beds – is just one more example of how the Oklahoma City community continues to make a difference in their training.”

The OKC Boathouse Foundation promotes the use and development of the Oklahoma River as a world-class urban aquatic venue and provides access to rowing, kayaking and fitness programs for people of all ages and abilities. OKCBF programs pursue the highest goals of sports and embrace the principles of the Olympic spirit which inspire athletes to work toward personal excellence, embrace the power of teamwork, and practice respect for all people and the environment. To learn more or get involved, call (405) 552-4040 or visit okcbf.org.

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A project of the Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation