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**For Immediate Release**

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**WEST MICHIGAN SPORTS COMMISSION FORECASTS 10,000+ ATHLETES  
COMPETING IN GREATER GRAND RAPIDS THIS WEEKEND**

**Michigan Juniors Volleyball Association and Michigan High School Athletic Association  
Will Bring Large Numbers of Athletes to Area**

Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 28, 2008 - This weekend's Michigan Juniors Volleyball Association (MJVBA) State Championships, Michigan High School Athletic Association's (MHSAA) Track & Field Finals and MHSAA Division II Girls Tennis Finals will combine to bring 10,000+ athletes to the Kent County area this weekend May 30 – June 1, 2008. The West Michigan Sports Commission estimates the events will combine to book around 3,500 room nights and be responsible for an estimated economic impact of \$1.8 million.

The MJVBA State Championships will host around 500 volleyball teams ranging in age from 13 to 18 years old. In order to accommodate the size of the tournament, 90 volleyball courts will be run simultaneously and located all over the Kent County area. DeVos Place Convention Center will be the main venue of the tournament with its ability to temporarily house 40 of the 90 courts needed. According to MJVBA.com "Michigan is the only Association Championship large enough to run at a Convention Center."

Also running this weekend are the MHSAA Track & Field Finals as well as the Division II Girls Tennis Finals. The MHSAA Track & Field Finals will showcase athletes from Lower Peninsula divisions 1-4. The divisions will take place at the following venues: Division 1 – Rockford High School, Division 2 – Zeeland Schools, Division 3 – Comstock Park High School, Division 4 – Forest Hills Eastern High School. The Track & Field Finals can expect to bring at least 5,000 athletes from across the state to compete. The MHSAA Division II Girls Tennis Finals will take place at Jenison High School and host over 250 girls.

**About the Michigan Juniors Volleyball Association:**

The Michigan Juniors Volleyball Association provides the opportunity for AAU Volleyball in the State of Michigan. The MJVBA is for High School, Junior High & Upper Elementary age Girls. For more information on the MJVBA, please contact Sharon Schatz at [mjvbaem@charter.net](mailto:mjvbaem@charter.net) or visit [www.mjvba.com](http://www.mjvba.com).

**About the West Michigan Sports Commission:**

The West Michigan Sports Commission is a non-profit body serving Greater Grand Rapids and West Michigan in its mission to promote the area as a premier venue for youth and amateur sporting events, to enhance the economy and quality of life in the region.

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