

Elite wheelchair tennis players coming to Rockford

ROCKFORD - Sixty top-ranked wheelchair tennis athletes from five countries, including 15 West Michigan players, will compete at the Midwest Indoor Wheelchair Championships, July 18-20, at the MVP Athletic Club, 515 E. Division, in Rockford.

Hosted by the Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association (GRWSA), athletes are competing for \$10,500 in prize money, sponsored by Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital.

The tournament, which is part of the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour, will feature men and women ages 18 and older competing in various divisions, as well as a junior division for teen athletes. Athletes are expected to travel from as far as Australia, Canada, and Hawaii.

Many of the athletes hold national and international rankings and are expected to com-

pete in the Paralympics in September in Beijing, China. The top 3 US men's open Paralympian athletes Jon Rydberg (Minnesota), Paul Moran (Chicago, Illinois) and Lee Hindson (Florida) will be in attendance.

West Michigan athletes, all of which are members of the GRWSA, competing at the Midwest Indoor Wheelchair

Championships include: Tyler Anderson (14, Jenison), Curt Bender (45, Zeeland), Pat Besta (38, Belmont), Dan Bolhouse (33, Caledonia), Scott Bonk (40, Grant), Dave Briggs (36, Belmont), Matt Clements (25, Zeeland), Scott Cole (22, Wyoming), Jocelyn Dettloff (35, Kentwood), Suzi Egeler (34, Belmont), Alisha Middel (36, Grandville), Jessica Spote

(20, Wyoming), Colin Sullivan (32, Grand Rapids), Valerie Wallace (42, Rockford), Sam Wassink (16, Byron Center), and Bryan Wilkinson (25, Wyoming).

For more information about the GRWSA, visit www.grwsa.com or call Lynn Bender at (616) 283-3377 or email lynncurt10s@yahoo.com.