

2008 Major Sporting Events Coming to our Area

MAY

- 12-13 Missouri State High School Athletic Association (MSHSAA) Boys State Golf Championship (sanctioned by MSHSAA)
- 17-21 United States Tennis Association (USTA) Boys/Girls 12's National Open (sanctioned by USTA)
- 22-24 MSHSAA Boys State Tennis Championship (sanctioned by MSHSAA)
- 28-June 1 MSHSAA Boys State Baseball Championships (sanctioned by MSHSAA)

JUNE

- 6-11 Missouri Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) Toyota Cup (sanctioned by MYSA)
- 13-17 USTA/Missouri Valley Segment 2 Super 2 Championship (sanctioned by USTA)

JULY

- 3-23 Springfield Lasers Professional World Team Tennis League Season (sanctioned by World Team Tennis)
- 18 USA Women's Olympic Softball Team "Bound 4 Beijing Tour" (sanctioned by ASA/USA Softball)
- 31-Aug. 3 Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Northern National Championship 12U "B" Girls Fast Pitch and 14U "B" Girls Fast Pitch (sanctioned by ASA)

AUGUST

- 4-7 American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) Bass Pro Shops/Payne Stewart Junior Golf Championship (sanctioned by AJGA)
- 14-17 ASA Men's 45 and Over Fast Pitch National Championship (sanctioned by ASA)
- 23 Jordan Valley Invitational (sanctioned by United States Figure Skating)

SEPTEMBER

- 25-28 USTA/Missouri Valley Mixed Doubles League Championship (sanctioned by USTA)

OCTOBER

- 23-25 MSHSAA Girls State Tennis Championships (sanctioned by MSHSAA)

"The tournaments and events have a significant impact on our community, both from an economic and quality of life standpoint," said Parks Director Jodie Adams. "Springfield has proven itself as a major player in the sports arena on a state, regional and national level. It's one of the reasons Springfield-Greene County is a *Sports Illustrated* 'Sports Town USA' city."

The Park Board will work with state, regional and national level organizations and governing bodies to host the events, including the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Greater Springfield Sports Commission.

Several thousand players will travel to the area for the tournaments. "These are the types of programs we want coming here," said Adams. "They bring awareness to our younger athletes, those who participate in our programs, and the area as a whole. Our goal is to get athletes from all levels, and one of the reasons we are a Community Olympic Development Program city."

"Tournaments of this size have a significant economic impact to the Springfield and surrounding economy," said Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Tracy Kimberlin. "When you add up the thousands of players and spectators who will travel to our area, you're looking at millions of dollars to local businesses."

This is the second visit for the USA Softball team to Springfield. In 2004, the team visited as part of their "Aiming for Athens" tour. The team's 2008 "Bound 4 Beijing" game will be at 7:30 p.m., Friday, July 18, at the Meador Softball Complex. Tickets will be available for sale beginning Monday, March 3, at the Park Board Offices, 1923 N. Weller Ave. Tickets are priced \$10 for infield; \$7 for outfield; \$5 outfield for groups of 20 or more.