

Wheelchair tennis athletes to compete in local competition

GRAND RAPIDS — Top-ranked international wheelchair tennis athletes from the United States, France, and Canada — including 17 players from West Michigan — will compete in the Midwest Wheelchair Championships, July 24-26.

The Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association (GRWSA) will host the competition at a new venue this year,

Orchard Hills Tennis Center, 115 Crahan Ave. NE. Athletes will compete for \$11,500 in prize money, sponsored by Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital.

Many of the athletes hold national and international rankings, and have competed in past Olympics. Formally ranked #1 U.S. player Steve Welch (Texas) and former Paralympian and

returning champion Stefane Goudou (France) will be in attendance.

West Michigan athletes scheduled to compete at the Midwest Wheelchair Championships include: Curt Bender (47, Zeeland), Randy Ketchapaw (28, Wayland), Pat Besta (39, Belmont), Susie Kluting (16, Coopersville), Dan Bolhouse (5, Caledonia), Chris Melton (14,

Zeeland), Scott Bonk (41, Grant), Beth Redford (45, Cascade), Dave Briggs (38, Belmont), Vicky Schmidt (40, Grand Rapids), Matt Clements (25, Grandville), Jessica Spote (21, Marne), Scott Cole (22, Wyoming), Valerie Wallace (42, Rockford), Jocelyn Dettloff (35, Kentwood), Bryan Wilkinson (25, Wyoming), Suzi Egeler (34, Belmont).