

## SquashScholars News Letter

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### **This is it, we are ready to go!**

One year ago SquashScholars was incorporated as a Minnesota NonProfit Corporation. The year has gone by quickly, yet much has been accomplished and our goal to begin program operation this fall will be achieved. We received our 501(c)3 tax exemption status in May. The squash courts and classroom at the U of M Rec Center are ready and waiting for a dozen Sullivan Middle School sixth graders. We will begin working with the YMCA's Beacons program in late September to identify candidates for the program. By late October, our first "class" will have been selected and we will begin our weekly schedule of 2:30 to 4:30 on Monday and Wednesday and 2:00 to 4:00 on Saturday.

### **Major upcoming events**

Several key events will precede the student selection process. On August 30, several SquashScholars personnel will attend the Sullivan Open House Celebration kicking off the new school year. Students, parents, and staff will get their first introduction to our program and the opportunity we bring to the school. September 7-9, three members of the University Squash Club will attend the level I training and certification course for teaching beginning squash at Vassar College in New York. This will give us four certified coaches available to work with our young recruits from Sullivan.

On the weekend of September 14-16, John Stever and the soon-to-be-named academic coordinator will travel to Boston for an urban squash workshop at the SquashBusters facility on the campus of Northeastern University. The workshop is sponsored by the National Urban Squash & Education Association (NUS&EA). Greg Zaff, the creator of urban squash, SquashBusters founder, and now executive director of NUS&EA, will lead the workshop. And later in September, we will work with the U of M office of Multi-Cultural Academic Excellence (MCAE) to hire and train University work-study students for the task of tutoring and mentoring in our academic enrichment program.

### **Squash becoming newsworthy**

While many urban squash articles have appeared in Squash Magazine, the game of squash has also been featured in the general news of late. Sunday, August 5, the Star Tribune reprinted an LA Times article describing squash as a growing sport nationwide <http://www.startribune.com/1244/story/1342097.html>. The article refers to the spread of urban squash and the attention it has brought to the game as a major factor. Earlier this spring, Forbes magazine published the results of a study showing squash as the healthiest sport, beating out the usual suspects such as rowing, swimming, skiing, and cycling [http://www.forbes.com/lifestyle/2003/10/01/cx\\_ns\\_1001feat.html](http://www.forbes.com/lifestyle/2003/10/01/cx_ns_1001feat.html). And recent urban squash news covered the progress of a relative newcomer, the MetroSquash program in Chicago <http://www.metro squash.org/articles/TribuneJuly9.pdf>. Since January, 2006, MetroSquash has grown to over 20 students and plans to double that number in the coming year.