

Press Release

28th Annual USABA Midwest Regional and 9th Annual John Bakos Memorial Goalball Tournament

Dates: Saturday March 3, 2012 8am to 8pm and Sunday March 4, 2012 8am to 1pm
Location: Warren Mott HS, 3131 E. Twelve Mile Rd Warren MI 48092

The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) and the Michigan Blind Athletics Association (MBAA) are teaming with Warren Consolidated Schools (WCS) to host the 28th Annual Midwest Regional Goalball tournament, moving this annual tournament to the Metro-Detroit area for the first time. This tournament is one of the largest in the nation, featuring over twenty men's and women's teams from across the USA and Canada, providing some of the best competition of the season.

Members of the USA National Goalball Teams will be competing at the tournament as part of their state teams. Michigan boasts three TEAM USA athletes, including one on our women's team, THE KRAZE, and two on our men's team, The Wrecking Crew, including WCS and Warren Mott graduate, John Kusku. Kusku grew up in Warren and began playing goalball in middle school. Since, he has risen to become one of the top players in the country. He has competed on TEAM USA at the Goalball World Championships, Para-Pan American games, and international tournaments in various countries around the world. Kusku's wife, Jessica, also a WCS and Warren Mott graduate, coaches John on The Wrecking Crew as well as the Michigan youth boy's team, The Striders.

Goalball is a Paralympic sport created after WWII by blinded veterans. It is a team sport played by athletes who are blind or visually impaired. It is played on a gym floor and all participants are blindfolded to create a level playing field. The teams compete by throwing a ball with bells in it along the floor in an attempt to score on the other team by crossing the goal line. It is played throughout the world and US by both men's and women's team. The sport is exciting and competitive.

The tournament is in need of volunteers, sponsors and spectators. Volunteering is a unique and fun experience. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Becky Hercula at bmomrn@wowway.com or (586) 574-3047. If you are interested in sponsoring the tournament or would like to make a donation of goods or services, please contact Jessica Kusku at jessica.kusku@gmail.com or (586) 506-0259. Admission to the tournament is free and all spectators are welcome.