

For Immediate Release

Play offs for 2011 Minnesota Youth Basketball State Championships Scheduled in Eight Regions

Regional play offs for the Minnesota Youth Basketball State Championships have been scheduled in eight regions for all youth teams in grades 5-9. Play offs will begin Feb. 26 in some locations and continue through April 30.

The Minnesota state tournament is hosted by Pacesetter Sports as part of a four-state series of state play offs that lead to the Great Four-State Championships at the Target Center in Minneapolis. The top two teams from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota in each age/gender division are invited to play in the 8-team "Great State" championship. Last year was the first year for the Great State play offs, which resulted in three Great State championships for Minnesota, South Dakota, and Minnesota and one title for Iowa.

Each team will play 3-4 games in one day in the regional play offs. Each age/gender division is limited to the first 16 teams to enter. Teams are not divided by class or size of school enrollment. All players on each team must either attend the same school or live in the same school district with one exception: smaller schools may combine as long as the combined enrollment of their high schools does not exceed 400 students for grades 9-12.

Minnesota play off sites include Rochester (Region 1), Mankato (Region 2), Marshall and Redwood Falls (Region 3), East Central (Region 4), New London-Spicer (Region 5), Fergus Falls (Region 6), Eveleth and Virginia (Region 7), and Fosston and Crookston (Region 8).

The NBA Minnesota Timberwolves and WNBA Minnesota Lynx, which both play home games at the Target Center, are sponsoring this Great State play off system. The Timberwolves are offering every player a free ticket to a 2011-2012 game, and the Lynx are sponsoring the Great State tournaments on Lynx game days and involving all teams in special fan experiences at the WNBA game.

Registration for the Minnesota Youth Basketball State Tournament is available on the Pacesetter website at www.pacesetternet.com or by emailing info@psmbbn.com for a registration form. High school head coaches have also been sent registration materials.