**MSU Strengthens Partnership with Timberwolves**

MSU and the Minnesota Timberwolves have formed an even stronger relationship after the Timberwolves became the official sponsor of the new Sport Management wall which is located just outside Myers Field House on the campus of MSU. The wall features graphics and a high definition flat screen TV that will be used to relay information to students and play promotional videos. This increased partnership also includes providing Sport Management students real world experiences which enhances their current course curriculum. With the help of the Timberwolves, students created a business plan for the October 4 game against the Milwaukee Bucks, which will be played at the Taylor Center on MSU’s campus. Currently the students are putting their plan into action by selling tickets for this game. The student who sells the most tickets will win a $1000 Sport Management Award which is supported in part by the Timberwolves themselves. Another way the Timberwolves are helping the Sport Management program is by having leaders from the organization join the newly created MSU Sport Management Program Advisory Board. Members from the team’s front office on this board include: Chris Wright, Trisha Exsted and J.T. Hoffman. This board was created for a number of reasons such as to make suggestions on course curriculum and to advise students when it comes to internship and job placement issues. The Sport Management program is thankful for all of the support they are receiving from the Timberwolves and are looking forward to the future when even more opportunities will exist to partner together and achieve great things.

*For information on purchasing tickets to the October 4 game contact Travis Smith at 507-389-2676.

**MSU Sport Management Looking Forward To Another Great Year**

It was another great year for the Sport Management program as they put on many successful events while raising scholarship money for students. Through events like the Golf Scramble, Banquet, and Scholarship BBQ, the Sport Management program is able to help out not only its own students but the general population at MSU. It is events like these that make MSU Sport Management unique in the fact that all of the events are student run and operated. Forming the Maverick Momentum Scholarships for all students and adding to the scholarships given out to Sport Management students, the program has made many positive strides. They have not only opened up doors for students through financial aid, but have given them the opportunity to gain experience and knowledge by being able to learn and implement the logistics of event planning. Working with professional teams such as the Minnesota Timberwolves/Lynx and the Minnesota Vikings, the Sport Management program has made it possible for students to gain real world experience. Opportunities like training camp for both the Vikings and Timberwolves take place on the MSU campus with students getting more involved every year. These types of opportunities are rarely available for other students in this area of the country, and the program is looking forward to an even better year in 2009-2010.

**Featured Alum**

J.T. Hoffman graduated from MSU in the spring of 2008 with a major in Sport Management and a minor in Economics. When asked about his experience with the MSU Sport Management Program, he said that “the professors were fantastic in helping me with all of my needs while going to school.” Currently, Hoffman is employed by the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx as the Payroll and Human Resources Specialist. His position has many important responsibilities, including being in charge of 401K and payroll for the players and staff, accounting and bookkeeping, and helping out with the annual career and internship fair. He is also the internship recruiter and leads internship orientations. Hoffman started his career with the Timberwolves and Lynx as an intern during the spring of 2008. While interning, a position with the organization opened and after interviewing he was offered his current job, which according to him consists of a lot of hours, but at the same time is a lot of fun. Hoffman’s advice to current students in the Sport Management Department is to complete internships and do job shadows in order to find out what area you want to focus on when graduating from school to help “find your niche”.
The Sport Management Club is a great opportunity for students to gain experience and network with people in the sport industry. The mission of the club is to develop members into successful sport business professionals through field experience and networking with sport organizations. Their objectives include: providing students experiential learning opportunities, networking with professionals within the Sport Management field, and developing club recognition on the MSU campus and in the Mankato community. The club meets bi-weekly on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

*For more information visit http://rso.mnsu.edu/smc/.

The Minnesota Twins are looking for interns for the 2010 season. Go to http://minnesota.twins.mlb.com and click on Job Opportunities for details.

The Minnesota Timberwolves are searching for a number of interns for the upcoming NBA season. Visit www.nba.com/timberwolves and click on Wolves Jobs for more information.

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The Sport Management Club put on another successful barbecue last spring to help give out the Maverick Momentum Scholarships. There was the ever famous professor dunk tank, an obstacle course, silent auction, yard games, pictures with stomper, food, hot wing eating contest, the band Useful Jenkins and plenty of people with which to socialize. It was one of the most successful events ever put on by the event management class and students are looking forward to making it even better when they do it again this school year.

The Minnesota Vikings made Mankato their home for training camp once again this summer, bringing a great opportunity for students to gain experience in the field of professional sport. There were about 35 students selected to be Sales and Marketing interns, most of which were from MSU. Throughout camp the interns were able to see what goes on behind the scenes to make a major event like training camp run. They began a week before the camp opened, getting everything set up in the Vikings Village area. Once camp actually started they were in charge of operating the village events, such as the kids area, hospitality tent, V.I.P tent, and all autograph sessions, while making sure everything was running smoothly. The interns ended camp making sure everything was taken down and back to the way it was found. During training camp many guest speakers from the Vikings organization took the time to talk to interns about their jobs and how they got to their positions. Overall Vikings training camp provided those interested in working in the sport industry a great opportunity to get a taste of what it’s really like.

Annual Golf Scramble & Sport Management Banquet

The third annual Golf Scramble was held by Dr. Lim’s Event Management class at the Mankato Golf Club last spring. “Our students did a great job with planning, organizing and delivering the golf tournament and the banquet. They made the events very successful. I am very proud of them” said Dr. Lim. There were 68 golfers that went and played the 18 holes at the golf tournament. After the scramble 120 people attended the first annual Sport Management Banquet, also held at the Mankato Golf Club. The banquet consisted of a silent auction beforehand, along with a few keynote speakers. Among the speakers was the owner of the Timberwolves Glen Taylor who introduced President Chris Wright. Wright gave a great speech and also received the Sports Business Leader of the Year Award. Others that received awards were Luther Hippe (Vikings) who was given the Distinguished Alumni Award and J.T. Hoffman (Timberwolves) who was awarded the Rising Star Award. Graduate Student Jordan Stolp was also a keynote speaker for the MSU Sport Management Program. All of the proceeds for these events benefited scholarships for Sport Management students.

Successful BBQ

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