

## PROSPECTUS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SEEKS PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL SPORTS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WHICH IS PLANNED FOR LAUNCH DURING THE 1998-1999 ACADEMIC YEAR. THIS INSTITUTE WILL PROMOTE AND SUPPORT RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CONCERNING SPORTS AND SOCIETY. IT WILL CONSIDER A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH COMPETITIVE ATHLETICS AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS, PROFESSIONAL SPORTS, OLYMPIC AND INTERNATIONAL SPORTS, AND BOTH RECREATIONAL AND COMPETITIVE SPORTS AT ALL AGE LEVELS.

SPORTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR CULTURE. WHETHER AT THE AMATEUR, PROFESSIONAL, OR RECREATIONAL LEVEL, COMPETITIVE ATHLETICS CONTINUE A TRADITION FROM ANCIENT TIMES, IN WHICH GAMES ALLOWED ATHLETES TO TEST AND DEVELOP THEIR OWN ABILITIES IN COMPETITION WITH ONE ANOTHER. ATHLETIC COMPETITION TEACHES BOTH THE PLAYER AND THE SPECTATOR SOME OF THE MOST ENDURING LESSONS OF LIFE—THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE, PERSEVERANCE, AND TEAMWORK. SPORTS TEACH US ALL THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT GOALS ARE ACHIEVED ONLY THROUGH EFFORT AND SACRIFICE—AND, SOMETIMES, EVEN THESE ARE NOT ENOUGH. SPORTS PROVIDE A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT, PRIDE, AND INVOLVEMENT FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF, ALUMNI AND FANS.

DESPITE THESE LOFTY GOALS, TODAY ATHLETICS IS ENCUMBERED BY SERIOUS CONCERNS. THESE INCLUDE THE QUASI-PROFESSIONAL NATURE OF COLLEGE SPORTS AND THEIR APPARENT INCONSISTENCY WITH THE ACADEMIC VALUES OF THE UNIVERSITY AS WELL AS THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INTENSE PUBLIC PRESSURE FOCUSED ON SPORTS VICTIMIZES BOTH THE PLAYERS AND THE COACHES. THERE IS THE PERCEIVED PRESSURE TO WIN AT ALL COSTS, WHICH LEADS TO CHEATING AND SCANDALS. AND SPORTS ARE TAINTED BY IMAGES OF MISBEHAVIOR, SUCH AS PLAYERS TAUNTING ONE ANOTHER, COACHES ENGAGING IN TIRADES AGAINST OFFICIALS, OR ATHLETES GETTING INTO TROUBLE WITH CRIME OR DRUGS.

THE EVOLUTION OF COMPETITIVE SPORTS FROM A PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITY TO A SPECTATOR EVENT AT THE COLLEGE, PROFESSIONAL, AND OLYMPIC LEVEL HAS ALSO RAISED SERIOUS ISSUES. COLLEGE SPORTS ARE GROSSLY OVER-COMMERCIALIZED; THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES, E.G., SPORTSMANSHIP, TEAMWORK, OF COMPETITIVE SPORTS HAVE BECOME DISTORTED BY THOSE OF THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY; AND THE DICTATING OF COMPENSATION LEVELS BY ENTERTAINMENT VALUE RATHER THAN ATHLETIC ABILITY HAVE CREATED FINANCIAL INSTABILITY.

THE NATIONAL SPORTS RESEARCH INSTITUTE IS INTENDED TO BUILD AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH FACULTY CAN CONDUCT RIGOROUS RESEARCH INTO SUCH ISSUES. IT WILL DRAW SCHOLARS FROM A BROAD ARRAY OF FIELDS, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES; PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES SUCH AS LAW, BUSINESS, MEDICINE, AND ENGINEERING; AND BASIC DISCIPLINES SUCH AS HUMANITIES. TYPICAL OF THE AREAS OF INVESTIGATION WOULD BE:

- THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF COLLEGE STUDENT-ATHLETES
- SOCIETY'S ATTITUDES TOWARD COMPETITIVE SPORTS
- THE MEDIA'S ROLE IN INFLUENCE SPORTS POLICY AND ECONOMICS
- THE ROLE OF ATHLETICS IN AN AGING SOCIETY

THE NATIONAL SPORTS RESEARCH INSTITUTE WOULD NOT ONLY PROMOTE AND FACILITATE BASIC RESEARCH IN SUCH AREAS, BUT IT WOULD ALSO CONDUCT WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, AND SEMINARS TO STIMULATE A BROADER RECOGNITION OF THESE ISSUES AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. ALTHOUGH THE INSTITUTE WOULD INITIALLY BE FOUNDED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, AN INSTITUTION LONG KNOWN FOR THE QUALITY AND BREADTH OF BOTH ITS ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS, IT WOULD SEEK THE ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP OF SEVERAL OTHER LEADING RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES. BECAUSE OF ITS INTERDISCIPLINARY NATURE, THE INSTITUTE WOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE PROVOST OF THE UNIVERSITY, WITH A GOVERNING COUNCIL CONSISTING OF DEANS OF KEY SCHOOLS OF THE UNIVERSITY (E.G., THE COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ARTS; MEDICINE; LAW, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, AND THE RACKHAM SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES).

ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE SUPPORT FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTION WOULD BE PROVIDED THROUGH RESEARCH AND TRAINING GRANTS ATTRACTED BY ITS FACULTY INVESTIGATORS, THE INSTITUTE WILL REQUIRE FUNDS FOR ITS CORE ACTIVITIES. WE ESTIMATE THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS SUPPORT TO BEGIN AT \$300,000 FOR FY98-99, GROWING TO A LEVEL OF \$800,000 PER YEAR ON A SUSTAINED BASIS. A MORE DETAILED BUDGET IS PROVIDED AS AN APPENDIX TO THIS PROSPECTUS.

WITH THE RAPID EVOLUTION OF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND THE AVAILABILITY OF GREATER LEISURE TIME, BOTH SPECTATOR AND RECREATIONAL SPORTS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO PLAY AN EVER MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN OUR SOCIETY. WE BELIEVE THERE TO BE A COMPELLING NEED FOR RESEARCH INTO THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL AND IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF COMPETITIVE SPORTS, AND THE NATIONAL SPORTS RESEARCH INSTITUTE IS INTENDED TO RESPOND TO THIS NEED.

**APPENDIX**  
**BUDGET EVOLUTION**

	<b>1998-99</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
<b>CLERICAL STAFF</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>
<b>SUPPLIES, PHONE, MISC</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUPPORT</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>
<b>RESEARCH SEED GRANTS</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>
<b>GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>215,000</b>	<b>465,000</b>	<b>815,000</b>