

'Hoops on Campus' showcases PSU

By Caitlin Burnham
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Happy Valley an idea of what it's like to be here."

The show consisted of interviews with head coach Ed DeChellis and players Talor Battle and Chris Babb, a dunking contest and a three point throwing contest.

The dunking contest pitted two volleyball players and two football players against each other. They each had 30 seconds to make a dunk that would impress the judges — Battle and co-host Jim Jackson. They then chose two players to go on to a second round.

Volleyball player Max Lipsitz (senior-finance) won the second round after standing backwards, bouncing the ball off the floor, and turning around to catch it and then dunking the ball. In the first round he chose to dunk with two balls instead of one.

"I was going for creativity. A bunch of guys were doing similar dunks so I thought I'd do something different," he said.

Whenever a new segment of the show was about to be filmed the crowd was motioned to cheer and shake their blue and white flags and pom-poms. The cheerleaders and Lionettes would clap their pom-poms together and the Nittany Lion would pump up the crowd by jumping around and playing with his ears.

The Blue Band performed a few times, playing the traditional Penn State fight songs, and engaging the fans. At one point, the Nittany Lion mascot used his tail to pretend to direct the band.

Fans came for a variety of rea-

Cheerleaders, Blue Band members, the Lionettes, fans and the Nittany Lion mascot provided a spirited blue and white backdrop for the filming of the Big Ten Network's "Hoops on Campus" on Thursday night.

Every week in January and February, the Big Ten Network travels to a different Big Ten campus to shoot an episode.

The episode is aired every Friday at 10 p.m. Eastern Time as well as several times throughout the weekend on the Big Ten Network, said Mike Hall, a Big Ten Network anchor and co-host for the show.

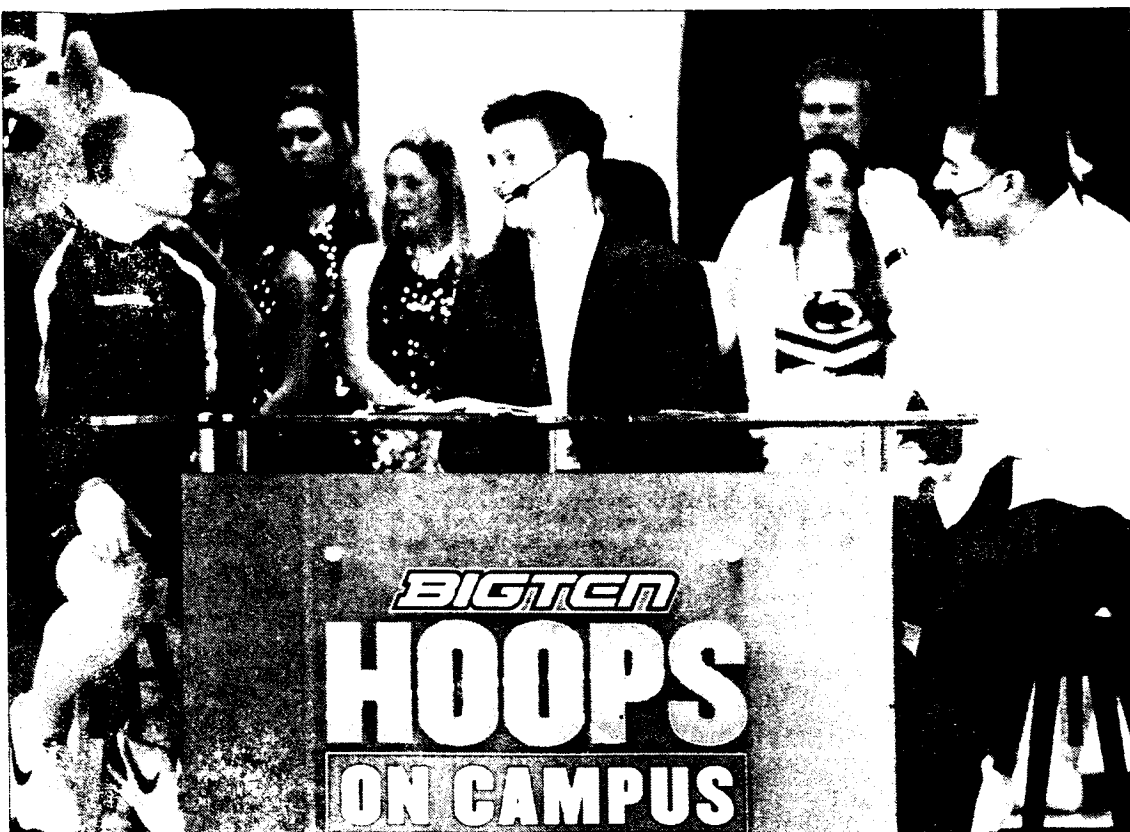
Penn State was chosen for this week because of the basketball team's upcoming game against Minnesota.

"The idea is to use the show to hype up the big game of the weekend on the Big Ten Network," Hall said.

The show was filmed in the Bryce Jordan Center South Gym and about 75 Penn State basketball fans showed up to share their enthusiasm for the team.

Hall said he thought the filming at Penn State was one of the best they had yet, mostly because more people showed up to be a part of the show.

"We want to make it feel with the band and the cheerleaders that it's a college event and show the fans and how they support their basketball team," Hall said. "[To give] those who can't come to



Basketball head coach Ed DeChellis, left, speaks to Big Ten Network sportscasters during the Big Ten "Hoops on Campus" show Thursday night in the Bryce Jordan Center South Gym. The show airs at 10 p.m. every Friday.

sons, but they all agreed that the evening was a success and was a lot of fun.

Matt Trabold said he came because he's a big Penn State basketball fan and was looking forward to seeing some non-players try their hand at the sport.

"They had us cheer a lot. They

didn't need to persuade us — we're really into it," Trabold (freshman-broadcast journalism) said.

Kristen LeRoy said she has worked for the athletic department since her freshman year and wanted to support the players. She also thought it gave students

something interesting to do. "It's always exciting when you have a big network come to campus and it gives students something to do on a regular weekday night," LeRoy, junior-advertising said.

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