

Basketball tickets go on sale

By Mike Hrick
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Students congregated at the HUB-Robeson Center Thursday for their first chance to get their hands on season tickets for Penn State men's and women's basketball.

Hosted by the Penn State Athletic Department, the third annual event featured food, prizes and games centered around the teams.

Penn State Basketball Marketing Manager Loren Crispell said season ticket holders receive a free T-shirt, early admission to home games, a student coupon book, access to an open preseason practice and post-season ticket priority.

Assistant Ticket Manager Joel

Diamond said this year's turnout for the event matched last year's sales of about 750 season tickets.

He said fans can purchase season tickets at the Bryce Jordan Center box office starting today. Online sales will begin on Oct. 18.

Nittany Lions season tickets cost \$59 and boast Big Ten matchups against the University of Illinois, Ohio State University and the University of Michigan as well as the final season of two-time All-Big Ten guard Talor Battle.

Lady Lions season tickets can be purchased for \$25, featuring non-conference games against University of South Carolina and Texas Tech University. Combined Nittany Lions and Lady Lions season tickets are \$75.

At one booth, fans could spin a wheel to win a Penn State T-shirt,

a free Quiznos fountain drink or even a Battle figurine.

Joseph Sumereau came away satisfied, winning a free appetizer at a local restaurant.

Sumereau (junior-science) said he expects the Nittany Lions to improve after last year's disappointing season in which "a lot of close games were lost."

Kyle Sam said he has high hopes for the men's basketball team this year. "They're at least going to the post-season this year," Sam (freshman-aerospace engineering) said.

He is looking forward to performances from Battle and freshman guard Taran Buie, as well as the anticipated match-up against defending ACC Champion University of Maryland.

Tyler Sanacroce said the heat is



Kelly Rootes-Murdy/Collegian

The third annual basketball season ticket sale took place at the HUB-Robeson Center Thursday, featuring food, prizes and games.

on for Battle this season.

"All eyes are on him and we'll see how he does under pressure," Sanacroce (sophomore-professional golf management) said.

The Nittany Lions will kick off the 2010-2011 season with a home

opener against Lehigh University in a 7:30 p.m. tip on Friday, Nov. 12. The Lady Lions will commence their season at University of Dayton at 7 p.m. on Nov. 12.

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Prior float champs aim to win again

By Vera Greene
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Last year, the "Nightmare Before Homecoming" became the victory after Homecoming.

Gamma Sigma Sigma sorority and Sigma Nu fraternity emerged victorious when they were named overall winners of Homecoming 2009 at the football game for their float spin-off of the movie "Nightmare Before Christmas."

This year, Gamma Sigma Sigma Homecoming Chairwoman Colleen Cwenar said she would love to win again with her sorority's creative rendition of the Disney "Up."

"What puts us in the lead over others is that we participate in every event Homecoming has to offer," Cwenar (junior-security risk analysis) said. "We really take spirit points and competition points seriously."

The points, which are awarded to members of an organization when they show up at Homecoming events, are really "the crux" of achieving a win this year, Cwenar said.

But the most important thing Gamma Sigma Sigma sorority members and Sigma Nu fraternity members have been doing is staying organized among the chaos.

"Last year, and this year, we set up a plan on how to get through the week," Cwenar said. "We set goals each day and we make sure there are members of our organization at every single event to get points."

Gamma Sigma Sigma President DeeDee Devore said this year and last year are similar in a few ways — one being the amount of time and energy put into the float.

"It's been a lot of all-nighters," Devore (senior-psychology) said. "But the float is coming out really cute."

Devore said the sorority is nowhere near complete, though. There are still more wires to be cut, pumping of tissue paper to be done and pieces of wood to be put together.

"It's like a puzzle getting everything to come together," Devore said.

Emily Pasi, Homecoming chairwoman for Gamma Sigma Sigma, said after pumping their float all night long the day before, nothing felt better than winning Homecoming 2009.

Pasi (senior-public relations) said Homecoming is the highlight of her fall semester — but it hasn't been easy, since Homecoming planning has been so busy for her sorority and Sigma Nu.



Kelley King/Collegian

Members of Gamma Sigma Sigma sorority and Sigma Nu fraternity pomp their float Thursday.

"We have been planning our Homecoming things months prior. We've been working every day and every night putting 110 percent effort into everything that we do," Pasi said.

"We're trying to do everything we did last year and then some."

Tyler Newcombe, Homecoming chairman for Sigma Nu, said the most important thing isn't just to continue the hard work the sorority and fraternity put into their activities and floats.

He said it's the positive morale they have while doing it — that's why they were successful last year, and why they will be successful this year, he said.

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LGBTQA discusses safety, security issues

By Leah Gillen
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

development of the LGBTQA community in the State College area.

In response to six suicides by gay students in the past month, about 50 students, faculty, staff and community members gathered in the HUB Auditorium Thursday to discuss issues of safety and security within Penn State's LGBTQA community.

Debbie Heitzmann, director of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at Penn State and Stephen Shetler, certified addictions specialist for CAPS, held the forum and encouraged attendees to suggest methods of prevention and development for the LGBTQA community.

"All of us are drawn here by a common incident," Heitzmann said. "For better or for worse, when there is a tragedy of this magnitude, it is an opportunity to generate the energy into a response."

The suicide of Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi on Sept. 22, was a focal point of the discussion, initiating different directions of thought in an effort to prevent more suicides from occurring in the future — particularly within the Penn State community.

For about 90 minutes, the meeting attendees stood up to address issues they felt to be pertinent to the protection and

"The same causes of the LGBTQA suicides are the same causes of the LGBTQA murders," State College resident Audrey Smith said. "I think the community could help the student population more if we were more visible. I just want to challenge every person here: Hold your partner's hand when you are walking downtown. It's too hidden here."

Discussion ranged from the perception of masculinity in today's society and the difficulties of living "out" in Central Pennsylvania to the necessity of LGBTQA education for the older generations. Most members of the community agreed that more effort should be put into both supporting the LGBTQA students in State College Area School District's middle and high schools, as well as working to incorporate allies into the LGBTQA movement.

"Now that I'm thinking about it, when is the last time we thought about outreach for allies?" Julian Haas (junior-sociology) said, after an attending ally voiced the need for more gay-straight communication. "Maybe that's something we need to do more of."

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