



Saturday, December 3, 2005

NKU kids' night lets children interact with collegiate athletes

By Howard McEwen
Enquirer contributor

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Northern Kentucky University hosts Kids' Night Out for the eighth year from 7 to 11 p.m. today at the Albright Health Center. Boys and girls in first through fifth grades may attend.

Children can play games including kickball, soccer and volleyball at stations manned by members of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. They include players from NKU's men's and women's basketball and soccer teams as well as the women's volleyball team. The pool will be open, and there will be crafts and snacks.

"It gives a chance for kids to play with college athletes," said Kevin Listerman, who helped organize the first Kids' Night Out in 1998. Now he is assistant men's basketball coach.

Originally started as an overnight event to reach out to the community and raise money for the committee, the event has become a biannual one that attracting about 250 children.

"We also thought having it in December would give parents time to do some Christmas shopping without the kids," Listerman said.

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee is the representative voice of student athletes at NKU. "When students have issues with coaching policies or practice length or scholarships they are addressed through the SAAC," Listerman said.

"Kids' Night Out provides a great community service event to the public, and it allows our Student Athlete Advisory Committee to raise some funds so that they can donate it to the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund or Make A Wish Foundation or the Red Cross," said Senior Associate Athletic Director Scott Eaton.

Members of the committee donated food items to 75 disadvantaged families.

The next night out is scheduled for spring.

IF YOU GO

Cost: \$10, includes T-shirt, snack

Space: Limited

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