



Monday, October 20, 2003

Midnight Madnezz evokes electric atmosphere

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

A week of exciting events reached an electric climax as students, faculty and staff packed the Recreation and Athletics Center on Friday, Oct. 17 for Oakland University's fifth annual Midnight Madnezz. The high-spirited event, which drew a record-breaking crowd, created an exciting climax for the ninth annual Week of Champions at Oakland University (WOCOU).

"It was the most successful Midnight Madnezz we've ever staged," said Mark Doman, assistant athletic director – marketing. "We had more than 2,000 people in the Rec Center, which created a truly electric atmosphere. The event fits very well with WOCOU as the crowning event of the week."

Before the doors opened that evening, attendees received various giveaways and were treated to music from DJ ESBY and local radio stations WJLB and 89X. Once inside, attendees were entertained by the second annual OU Student vs. OU Faculty and Staff Basketball Challenge, the Golden Grizzlies Pep Band, the Intrigue hip-hop dance group and Images dance team, and a duo that played the Blues Brothers. Sophomore Sam Weatherspoon and freshman Tameka Young each won the drawing for a full tuition scholarship for the winter 2004 semester. The new look for the Grizz, OU's mascot, also was unveiled. The festivities culminated at midnight with the introduction of the Golden Grizzlies men's and women's basketball teams, followed by the first official practice of the season.

The WOCOU schedule included many events and celebrations throughout campus. Among these were a party honoring the 120th birthday of OU founder Matilda Wilson, a student talent show, and an "Arts, Beats and Eats" festival. OU students also held a rally on Sept. 16 in the Hamlin Courtyard to kick off a fund raising campaign for a Golden Grizzly statue for the campus. Attendees of the "For the Roar 2004" rally sampled food from local restaurants and enjoyed live music while learning more about the proposed statue and sharing fund raising ideas.

"Having a Grizzly statue on campus is a great idea," said OU Student Congress President Jonathan Parks. "The process of planning and installing the statue will strengthen the relationship between the students and the administration. The statue itself will be a symbol of pride and growth for the university. I'm sure the statue will be well received by the OU community."

Though WOCOU events are officially over, the campus-wide "Trick-or-Treat UNICEF" fund drive continues through Friday, Oct. 24. All OU community members are encouraged to help make a difference in the lives of millions of children worldwide by making a donation. The goal is to gather a \$1 donation from every OU student, faculty and staff member. A \$150 grand prize will be awarded to the residence hall floor, student organization, and university office or department that raises the most funds. UNICEF boxes are available in each department or floor for donations. For more information, contact the **Center for Student Activities** at (248) 370-2400 or csa@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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