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(Editor's Note: Photo possibilities)

BIGGEST AND BEST YOUTH CAMP IN DAYTON AREA Prepares for Its Final Week

DAYTON, Ohio — Approximately 600 youth ages 10 to 16 will end their five-week adventure on Friday, July 18, on the University of Dayton campus. The National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) has been held on campus for the last 36 years and has brought education and sports to disadvantaged boys and girls.

The NYSP is federally funded in conjunction with the NCAA and UD. It is held every year on UD’s campus for Dayton-area youth. UD student counselors, group leaders and Dayton-area certified teachers and coaches run the popular camp. From 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Physical Activity Center, the youth experience aerobic dance, basketball, swimming, bowling, flag football, softball, soccer and tennis, in addition to education in drug and alcohol prevention, math, science, life skills, personal health and nutrition, and information on attending college and career planning.

“There are 200 similar programs across the country and in 1999, we were awarded one of the top 10 in the nation,” boasts John Ralph, the NYSP project administrator. Ralph had originally planned for 400 youth this season but, because of popular demand from parents, he was able to expand it to 600.

On Wednesday, the youth and parents will view a slide presentation on the past four weeks in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre at 9 a.m. and at 10:45. An award ceremony will be held at two different time slots on Friday, July 18. At 9:30 a.m., the 10- to 12-year-old youth will receive awards for perfect attendance and best performances in any given area of the program. The older youth, ages 13 to 16, will receive their awards beginning at 1 p.m. All parents of the youth are invited to attend the ceremonies. The ceremony location is tentatively scheduled in the Collins Gym in the Physical Activity Center.

For media interviews or information for next year’s NYSP camp, please contact John N. Ralph at (937) 229-5443 or fax (937) 229-4331 or by e-mail at coach1993@netzero.net.