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UD Featured in Video Tape About National Youth Sports Program

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DAYTON, Ohio, July 14, 1988--The University of Dayton is one of seven campuses nationally to be featured in an informational video tape about the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), a federally sponsored project that provides structured sports activities and enrichment programs to the nation's economically disadvantaged youth. Nearly 550 youngsters from the Dayton area are participating in the program this summer on UD's campus.

The NYSP, held at UD for the past 19 summers, is in its 20th year nationally. It is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and is administered by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Each summer nearly 140 colleges and universities conduct the program, which offers young people sports and educational instruction, athletic competition, meals, transportation and medical exams, all free of charge. UD's five-week program continues through July 28.

"Just getting the youth on a college campus breaks down fears and barriers. Excellent professional people give instruction, serve as role models and provide enrichment--and all of this is through the medium of sports," said Ruth Berkey, the national program director of the NYSP, who visited the UD campus with a camera crew on Wednesday, July 13 to obtain footage for the documentary, which is scheduled to be completed in August.

The 20-minute video will be used to "tell others about the program," recruit participants and help raise additional private and public funding.
Berkey said. UD will be featured because it "has had such an excellent program over a long period of time and last year received a 'very special' commendation from the NCAA," said Berkey, who has directed the NYSP since 1981.

While on campus, the crew filmed youngsters participating in sports activities and "enrichment" sessions. According to Berkey, UD's enrichment classes, which concentrate on non-sports instruction in areas such as nutrition, career opportunities and drug and alcohol abuse, are unique because they are structured by age into small groups. "The topics," she said, "are timely and very helpful for the kids."

The crew also taped interviews with camp counselors and with Donald Morefield, an assistant professor of physical and health education who has been involved in the NYSP at UD since its beginning. He has served on its national task force for the past three years and, next year, will serve as chair of the NYSP national committee, which establishes all policies for the program.

Since 1969, Morefield estimates that nearly 10,000 youth between the ages of 10 and 16 have participated in the program at UD. Some have returned as paid counselors or counselors-in-training.

"The University of Dayton has a strong commitment to the program and to the community," he said.

For more information about the NYSP, contact Billy Mayo at 229-2731.

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