
Letters

Crowd motivates wheelchair athletes

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who attend the UTA vs. the University of Houston Wheelchair Basketball game. We estimated the crowd to be around 1,000 people. A good cross section of students, faculty, staff, and community members were in attendance.

The 39 to 31 victory over the University of Houston gave UTA the Texas Championship in wheelchair basketball. Equally important, the crowd had a great deal to do with firing the Freewheelers up for the victory. We have heard for so long that school spirit was virtually non-existent at UTA and that it was hard to achieve a good turnout for any event.

It is true that the Handicapped Student Association worked hard to get the word out about the game. They used virtually every resource on campus to put together a package of entertainment that would appeal to a college crowd. They did not find apathy. Rather, they found enthusiastic groups and individuals willing to join an effort to demonstrate the vitality of school spirit and to support a winning wheelchair basketball game.

The UTA Jazz Band, under the direction of Bill Snodgrass, the UTA Marching Band, under the direction of Ray Lichtenwalter, the UTA Movin' Mavs, the UTA Cheerleaders, and the Student

Activities Board all joined the effort.

Alpha Phi Omega, Kappa Sigma, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Sigma Theta, Delta Zeta, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Nu, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Alpha Chi Omega, Phi Beta Sigma and Delta Tau Delta were among the organizations that turned out their members for the game. The Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, Brazos House, Pacht Hall, and, of course, President Nedderman were among others who were anxious to participate in the event.

Needless to say, there was standing room only in the bleachers of Texas Hall. The Handicapped Student Association made the event a success by not assuming that apathy was the norm but by taking their program to the student, faculty, and staff and asking for their participation. They found hundreds of people wanting to participate.

In conclusion, let me say that the real victory belonged to the crowd. Though the crowd helped to motivate the UTA Freewheelers to its victory over Houston, it demonstrated that school spirit is alive and well at UTA.

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