April 5, 2017

**Pitt Sports Dome Grand Opening Set for April 17**

*Ribbon-cutting Ceremony at 11:15 a.m. Food, Prizes, Activities to Follow*

The grand opening of the new Pitt Sports Dome will officially take place on Monday, April 17, as Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kenyon Bonner, and other dignitaries will participate in a special ribbon-cutting ceremony beginning at 11:15 a.m.

The campus community is invited to attend the ceremony, which will be followed by an informal lunch and an open house until 2 p.m., where members of the University community will have their first opportunity to see the spectacular new facility.

The Pitt Sports Dome is a multi-field, multi-use recreational facility that features a full-size football/soccer/lacrosse field with synthetic turf that can also be separated into three distinct playing areas. The state-of-the-art, air supported dome structure is located behind the Cost Center, on Pitt’s upper campus on the Robinson Street Extension. In addition to the fields inside the dome, three large synthetic playing fields have been added just outside of the dome, providing students and student organizations with a significant amount of space for competitive club sports, recreational club sports, intramurals, and general recreation.

“We are really looking forward to the grand opening of the Pitt Sports Dome because it will have such a positive impact on the student experience,” said Bonner. “We built this facility for all students to enjoy, in response to many requests over the years from students and student organizations for Pitt to provide better recreational space.”

“The dome will enable our club sports teams to have great practice facilities year ‘round, and provide a quality home field for many competitions,” said Marilyn Ross, director of campus recreation. “It will also enable us to continue expanding our growing intramural sports programs, and give student organizations, residence hall floors, fraternities and sororities, or any student who just wants a place to exercise, a fantastic place to go for recreational activities. We are especially excited to have such a great facility for students during the winter months when inclement weather limits or prohibits outdoor recreation.”

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During the 2016-17 academic year, approximately 9,000 students have participated in club sports, intramurals, or HealthyU fitness classes sponsored by Campus Recreation.

In addition to the construction of the Pitt Sports Dome, several other enhancements have been made in recent months, or will occur in the coming months, to enrich the recreational experience at Pitt:

- In January, the replacement of the multiuse hardwood court in Bellefield Hall was finished, providing a new surface for students, faculty, and staff who play basketball and volleyball, or use the gymnasium for other activities such as yoga, dance, or other programming. The original wood floor had been in place since the building opened in 1924.
- At the Baierl Student Recreation Center within the Petersen Events Center, approximately 60 new cardio machines replaced existing equipment at the facility through a new lease agreement. Satellite workout facilities were upgraded with the “phased out” equipment from Baierl, including select workout areas in the residence halls. Free weight and heavy weight lifting areas were also expanded.
- The Trees Hall weight room received equipment upgrades courtesy of the Pitt Athletics Department.
- The lower multipurpose room at Trees Hall, which experiences a high volume of student activity such as classes sponsored by the Department of Health and Physical Activity, as well as martial arts clubs, will undergo renovations during the summer of 2017. Upgrades to the facility may include new mats, paint, lighting, equipment, and storage.

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