



Kentucky High School Athletic Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 2, 2011

WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS MOVE TO ALLTECH ARENA, SOCCER TO DUNBAR

Three of the KHSAA's signature championship events will be contested at new venues starting with the 2011-12 school year.

The state wrestling championships will be moving to the spacious new Alltech Arena on the grounds of the Kentucky Horse Park for the 2012 event, slated for Feb. 17-18. The arena, which has permanent seating for more than 5,500 patrons, also has a large surface area that allows for expansion of additional mats and additional matches, which will allow the event to be completed in two days. Currently the state wrestling championships contest 868 bouts on four mats, spread over three days.

The event moves from the Frankfort Convention Center, the host of the championships since 1996. The past two years more than 4,500 spectators have witnessed the final matches for each of the 14 weight classes.

"(The Frankfort Convention Center) is a wonderful facility but we've simply outgrown it and that's a good problem to have," said KHSAA Commissioner Julian Tackett. "Alltech Arena will give the event room to grow even more and it will also help us alleviate another issue that our members face – missed school time."

The first new championship venue will be seen as early as this fall as the KHSAA boys' and girls' state soccer championships. Final details are being worked out to bring the event to the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School campus in Lexington.

Among the amenities at Dunbar are a pitch covered with an all-weather field turf surface.

This year the boys' semifinals will be played on Wednesday, Nov. 2, followed by the girls' semifinals on Thursday, Nov. 3. The boys' and girls' finals will be played on Saturday, Nov. 5.

"Over the past few years, fan interest and participation for soccer have grown tremendously and our championships have reflected that," said KHSAA Assistant Commissioner and soccer contact Michael Barren. "Among the things we looked for in a soccer site were the surface, the weather and the cost. We will be taking a very close look at things in regard to our soccer tournaments over the next two years, including such things as the location and even the format itself. The move to Dunbar is by no means permanent."

The boys' and girls' soccer championships have been contested continuously at Toyota Stadium in Georgetown since 1999.

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