

Men's Basketball and Community Partner Up for Diabetes Awareness

Feb. 24 game vs. South Carolina will be a "Blue Out" for Diabetes Awareness

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – Head Coach Anthony Grant and The University of Alabama's men's basketball team have teamed up with campus, community and national organizations, including the Tuscaloosa County Diabetes Coalition, Sanofi US, the University Medical Center, Novo Nordisk, and others to raise diabetes awareness.

Coach Grant and his wife, Chris, are serving as diabetes awareness spokespersons for the event, which tips off on Tuesday, Feb. 24. Fans are encouraged to wear blue for the "Blue Out Diabetes" event when the Crimson Tide takes on SEC opponent South Carolina at 6 p.m. CT in Coleman Coliseum. Blue is the color representing global diabetes awareness.

Grant has become an advocate for diabetes awareness and is excited about the attention this game will bring to the disease. He has family members living with the disease and wants to help individuals learn about diabetes and ways to delay or prevent Type 2.

"I want to help individuals in our state be aware of the high rates of diabetes and the dangers of this chronic health condition if it goes unchecked," Grant said. "By working with one's health care provider, individuals can be screened, make lifestyle changes and take steps to improve their health."

The Men's Basketball Diabetes Awareness Day Game will feature on-court promotions, and access to campus and community resources. Additionally, attendees will learn facts about diabetes and steps they can take to reduce their risk of diabetes or better manage the disease.

"Our campus and community partners are committed to serving as valued resources for individuals living with diabetes," said Dr. Rebecca Kelly, University of Alabama Director of health enhancement planning. "Through the coordinated efforts with Coach Grant and our partners, we are able to team up for this first ever Diabetes Awareness program."

In 2012, approximately 1 in 10 people in Alabama were diagnosed with diabetes or more than 450,000 individuals. Cases of diabetes are skyrocketing with over 29 million Americans living with the disease. The estimated total medical costs and lost work and wages for people diagnosed with diabetes is \$245 billion annually. Additionally, one in three adults in the U.S. have pre-diabetes, a condition that increases the risk of diabetes.

Terina Wood, Co-chair of the Tuscaloosa County Diabetes Coalition stated, "With televised coverage of the game, we will be able to reach basketball fans and raise awareness about diabetes not only in our community and state, but also in the Southeast. We are grateful for the support of the University and Coach Grant."

This season, Alabama is 16-10 overall (6-7 SEC) and has won two of its last three contests coming in to Saturday's contest vs. Georgia (7 p.m. CT on ESPN2).

For all the latest information on the team, follow AlabamaMBB on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. General athletic news can be found at UA_Athletics on Twitter and Instagram

For more information about the event, contact Dr. Rebecca Kelly, PhD, RD, Director, health enhancement planning, The University of Alabama, rkelly@ua.edu | (205) 394-8824.