

More than 900 'Pack The House,' 'Rock The Red'

BAYTOWN, TX — What started as a joint effort between Lee College and the city of Baytown to pack the house for Lee College basketball ended last weekend with more than 900 fans rocking their red and filling the Sports Arena to cheer on the team against a conference opponent.

Along with the action on the court between Lee College and the Angelina College Roadrunners, fans at the first-ever "Pack The House, Rock The Red" game enjoyed a lively atmosphere that included games, contests, music, raffle giveaways and the chance to sink a half-court shot for a \$500 prize. All attendees aged 18 and under received free entry into the game, as did anyone who brought two canned goods to contribute to the team's ongoing drive to feed the hungry in the local community. Attendees aged 19 and older received discounted \$2 entry for wearing red.

Head Coach Roy Champagne thanked Kevin Troller, assistant city manager for the city of Baytown, for envisioning and promoting the campaign to sell out the Sports Arena in support of Lee College basketball.

"He simply was a fan that felt we had a good product in a great venue," said Champagne, who has coached men's basketball at Lee for more than two decades and made it a priority for his athletes to give back to and connect with the community. The team has completed more than 530 hours of community service since August 2016 and donated thousands of canned goods to local food pantries.

"Our fan base has grown over the last four years," Champagne said. "Hopefully, many of the fans that came out to 'Rock The Red' will decide to attend more frequently."

Next up, the Runnin' Rebels will hit the road for an away game against Jacksonville College before returning to the Sports Arena Wednesday, Feb. 8, to take on Blinn College. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

A full schedule for the 2016-17 basketball season and a team roster are available online at www.lee.edu/athletics/basketball.