## **Auction Fund-raiser Features Sports Action**

May 27, 2011 11:15 AM New Wave Staff newwave@tulane.edu

Watch the New Orleans Saints play the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from a luxury suite with 15 guests, or witness a soccer match between the U.K.'s Manchester United and Spain's FC Barcelona with accommodations in Washington, D.C. These are just two of the items up for bid now through June 15 in the online Tulane Grads and Dads Auction.



Top sporting events and entertainment are among the offerings for the Tulane Grads and Dads Auction, which raises funds for scholarships for student-athletes. (Illustration by Melinda Viles)

As part of a Tulane Empowers fund-raising effort to support scholarships for studentathletes, the Tulane Athletics Fund is offering more than 40 items in its **online auction**. For the second year, the Grads and Dads Auction is part of the overall Helluva Hullaballoo auction series, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary. "The past decade of Hullabaloo fund-raisers has been both fun and rewarding for Green Wave athletics," says Rick Dickson, Tulane athletics director. "It's a great benefit for the scholarship program."

The items such as Sugar Bowl sideline tickets and golf for three at Bayonne Golf Club in New York are featured in a unique menu of Tulane offerings in the auction hosted by Charitybuzz.com.

"We have items for everyone," says Dickson, "not just sports fans." For instance, a winner can attend the premiere of the final season of "Entourage" in New York City with a guest or be a VIP at the grand opening of the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music.

Among other auction packages are dinners with Tulane head coaches, including men's basketball coach Ed Conroy, women's basketball coach Lisa Stockton, or baseball coach Rick Jones; a round of golf with Tulane head football coach Bob Toledo; as well as other items centered around experiences at Green Wave sporting events.

Additionally, the auction is featuring several packages of Premier League Soccer and European Soccer memorabilia.

For pro football fans, there are one-of-a-kind Saints/Buccaneer experiences donated courtesy of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Grads and Dads event precedes a bigger auction to be held during homecoming. Tulane is planning an exciting 10-year anniversary auction and party on Oct. 21, 2011, to kick off this fall's **Homecoming and Family Weekend**, says Dickson.