



Canine care

Potty breaks, walks and a nap

Business Monday

Veterans in danger of being salary cap casualties

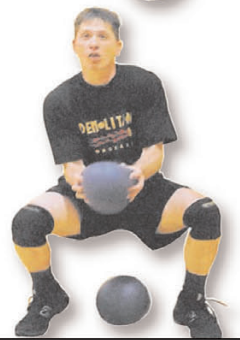
NFL talks end

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Dodgeball for diabetes

Foundation is the real winner of this tournament

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Mad hot ballroom



Dan Marschka / Intelligencer Journal

Team members from House of Pizza (in blue) and Demolition Dodgeball scramble for the balls at the beginning of a dodgeball match during the second annual Ephrata Dodgeball Tourney in Ephrata High School's gymnasium Sunday.

Dodgeball fundraiser benefits juvenile diabetes research

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Daihn Moyer was outnumbered two to one, but he didn't look a bit concerned.

With a little over a minute left in the game, Moyer needed to knock out both of his opponents to give his team — Demolition Dodgeball — the victory Sunday in the adult division of the second annual Ephrata Dodgeball Tourney.

All the two opposing players on team House of Pizza had to do was let the clock run out and send the best-of-five match into a tie-breaking game in Ephrata High School's gymnasium.

Instead, the House of Pizza players rushed to the center line on the court and hurled their balls at Moyer.

Moyer sidestepped one ball and caught the other, which knocked out one House of Pizza player.

Then Moyer rushed the line himself and hurled a ball at the remaining House of Pizza player, who deflected the ball with his own ball. Unfortunately, the deflection hit him in the foot, knocking him out of the game.

Thus, Team Demolition Dodgeball claimed the championship.

The real winner of the weekend tournament, however, was Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Tournament director Dave Erb of Ephrata said the charity event raised about \$6,000 for the national foundation.

That's up from the \$700 raised during the inaugural tournament last year.

"It was kind of discouraging last year to go through all this work for only \$700," Erb said.

According to Erb, 28 school-age teams and eight adult teams competed in the tournament, which ran from Friday evening through Sunday. A total of about 260 competitors participated.

The school-age teams were required to raise donations for the foundation. The requirements varied by age bracket.

The adult teams each paid a flat \$175

entry fee.

Use of the gymnasium for the tournament was donated by Ephrata Mounts Basketball Booster Club.

Erb said the club is allowed by the school district to use the gym free of charge for two events each year. And the past two years, he said, the club donated one of its allocations for the dodgeball tournament.

"That's a pretty generous donation," he said. "We really appreciate that."

Erb, who works for North Market Street Graphics in Lancaster, started the tournament because he believes juvenile diabetes often gets overlooked by organizations who run charity events.

"There are a lot of events for cancer, but you don't see too many for juvenile diabetes," he said.

A dozen students in Ephrata Area School District cope with juvenile diabetes, Erb said. One of them is his wife's 11-year-old son, Max Carr.

Max wears an insulin pump around his waist that automatically injects insulin into his body through a tube embedded just above his left hip.

Erb said one of the projects the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is working on is developing an insulin pump that would be totally embedded under the skin.

Dodgeball, also known as bombardment, in which two teams throw balls at one another, has been a gym-class favorite for decades.

The sport has become increasingly popular out of school, however, ever since the 2004 release of the Ben Stiller movie "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story."

Lancaster Recreation Commission has had an 11-team adult league for the past year.

The Demolition Dodgeball and House of Pizza teams are two of the best in that league, so it was no surprise they survived the round-robin play early Sunday to face each other in the final matchup late in the afternoon.

For their victory, the Demolition Dodgeball team members won T-shirts and bragging rights until next year's tournament.

"The adult teams were a lot more competitive than I thought they'd be," Erb said. "I think they had fun."

Spring 2006 Dodgeball Champions

Rookie League

CHAMPIONS

Money Makers
(4-1, 10-4)

Second Place

Exterminators
(3-2, 7-6)

Junior League

CHAMPIONS

Power Rangers
(8-0, 17-4)

Second Place

Wombats
(6-1, 13-6)

Senior League

CHAMPIONS

Dodgers
(10-1, 22-2)

Second Place

Playground Legends
(9-2, 19-11)

Adult League

CHAMPIONS

Demolition
(7-1, 17-5)

Second Place

House of Pizza
(6-3, 15-12)