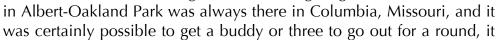
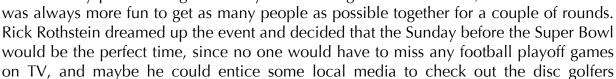
## A Brief History of the Ice Bowl

by Lynne Warren

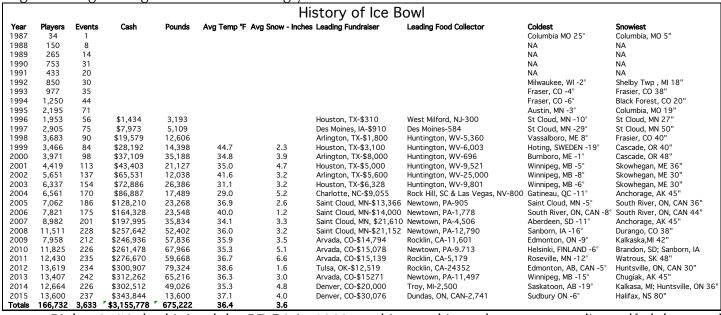
The first Ice Bowl was the product of a good idea, born out of yearning for the winter of 1987 to be over and for the disc golf season to begin again. While the course





playing in the winter weather. Little did anyone know that the Ice Bowl would become a traditional, annual event that would eventually raise over \$3 million in charitable contributions, specifically

targeted to fight hunger and feed the hungry.



Rick, #2458, had joined the PDGA in 1983, and jumped in early on to get a disc golf club started



start a publication that Columbia, communication and connected disc golfers throughout the country, and to organize and run a national tournament each vear in Columbia. He was a member of the PDGA board of directors, and a touring pro during the spring through the fall seasons, but in Missouri, it was he who was responsible for

running weekly events and monthly two-round tournaments that drew disc golfers from St. Louis and Kansas City as well

Winter weather in Missouri is unpredictable, but more times than not in January, one can count on some pretty miserable conditions. Rick made a telephone blitz to the disc golfers in St. Louis and



Kansas City and spread the word in Columbia. He also called the local newspapers to see if any reporters would come out just to see what we were doing—he made sure that everyone knew there would be something going on no matter what Mother Nature had in store for us. Even the day before the Ice Bowl, the disc golfers in Columbia were still hemming and hawing, that it



might be too cold, or the weather might be bad. Therefore, Rick came up with the perfect challenge no wimps and no excuses! If you don't make it out for the Ice Bowl, you can consider yourself a wimp! With that, the official rules and credo of the Ice Bowl were etched in ice—No excuses, no wimps, and no whiners was added eventually, thanks to the Indianapolis Disc Golf Club.



Snow started falling on Saturday night and was still coming down when the first of the 34 hearty Ice Bowl participants arrived. A reporter from the *Columbia Daily Tribune* showed up with his camera during the second round, took some pictures, and talked with several of the disc golfers who were having a blast playing in the five inches of fresh snow. There were still about 17 players out there in the cold as due

fresh snow. There were still about 17 players out there in the cold as dusk approached, and we awarded Alex Dadant of Columbia the Ice Bowl trophy, which was an ice bucket mounted on a wooden base with room for future Ice Bowl champions' names. We all vowed to return and have as much fun again the next year.

Much has changed in the world of disc golf since that first Ice Bowl. To say that disc golf was not



widespread in 1987 is quite an understatement. There were fewer than 200 courses in the ground—as compared to over 5,000 today, and the PDGA numbering system was right around 4,500, as opposed to the current number that is closing in on 80,000. There were pockets of players wherever there were courses, and many of those players were willing to spend weekends, during the rest of the year, traveling back



and forth to other cities for the chance to play a different course, friendly competition, and camaraderie. This was the way that skill levels grew, discs were purchased, and news was spread. The off season was a lonely time—and those who were used to traveling to tournaments or to nearby monthlies were very hungry to throw and get together with other disc golfers. We all wanted more courses and players, and the only way for that to happen was to find ways to let other people know about disc golf and how much fun it can be. So, we were thrilled that Monday following the first Ice Bowl to find a photo in the *Columbia Daily Tribune* with a short write-up about how we defied the weather to play our favorite

sport. Disc golf in Columbia got some free publicity in the Sports section!



March of 1987 marked the debut issue of Rick's quarterly publication, *Disc Golf World News*, the primary communication that connected the dots between the disc golf players that were speckled across the country and parts of Canada. Rick included a picture from

the Ice Bowl, reported on the success of the turnout and the media opportunity, and declared the intention of *Disc Golf World News* to promote Ice Bowl Sunday as a day of disc golf solidarity in the middle of winter. The seeds of the idea were thus thrown out and planted in other states. When a dozen or so Ice Bowls were held in 1988, the Ice Bowl, as a series of events, was truly born.



Through the years, of course, Ice Bowl has evolved greatly. Because it has become so widespread, there are both local flavor and traditional activities that make each community's Ice Bowl unique. There are bragging rights for such things as the number of players, low temperatures (or high temperatures in Sun Belt states), and charity money raised,



which is now worth prizes. There have been chili contests, ice sculpting, various games to play, and courses full to the brim with people playing on Ice Bowl day! Eventually, Ice



Bowl had to expand from single day that everyone everywhere played because Saturday worked better in some areas or some communities wanted to hold their event on one weekend so that they could support another community's Ice Bowl on the following weekend. Some players started traveling out of state to attend particular Ice Bowls. It expanded first to an Ice Bowl Weekend and



eventually to what it is today—and Ice Bowl Corridor that encompasses every weekend in January and February.



In 1994 Rick started vending discs and clothing featuring the Ice Bowl logo and coordinating the events wherever they were held. The mission to fight hunger by raising money and food for local food banks, which was put into place in 1996 (thanks to the Indianapolis Disc Golf Club who had raised money for their food bank in 1995), helped to expand the numbers of participants, communities involved, and

media coverage. Networking for charity and publicity through the media have had lasting results that have helped increase the number of people playing the sport and the number of courses within many communities.

After the 9-11-2001 tragedies, Disc Golf World started to allow Ice Bowls to raise money for charitable purposes other than just fighting hunger. Two years ago, Disc Golf World trademarked Ice Bowl®) to better ensure that tournaments using the Ice Bowl® mark for their events would raise funds for charities consistent with the goals of Ice Bowl. Today, the emphasis continues to be on having fun, raising money for local charities (ideally for fighting hunger), and garnering upbeat local

publicity that integrates the disc golf community with the community at large in positive ways. To date, disc golfers have raised over \$3.1 million for charity through the Ice Bowl.

The Ice Bowl has been good for disc golf, disc golfers, and communities. Players pull together to organize and run the event in their towns and cities. It is a good day to new players out for the first disc golf experience. Since there is no pressure to know how to play, they can throw just for fun while



making their charitable contributions. The camaraderie is still an important factor; Ice Bowl serves as a winter reunion and celebration. With whining prohibited, everyone is cheerful, but being cheery is easy when you know that you are part of an event that is for a good cause; it is something in which everyone can take pride. The Ice Bowl is truly one man's dream that has come true, and in the process, it achieved far more than he could have ever envisioned.



Top 100 Cash Donations			40	Waterbury Center, VT	\$8,415	2013	80	Buffalo, NY	\$5,500	2009	16	Springfield, IL	-6	2007
1 Littleton (Denver), CO	\$30,076	2015	41	Huntington, WV	\$8,386	2010	80	Houston, TX	\$5,500	2002	16	Winnipeg, MB, CAN	-6	2002
2 Saint Cloud, MN	\$21,610	2007	42	Buffalo, NY	\$8,255	2012	82	Clagary, AB, CAN	\$5,462	2011	16	Winnipeg, MB, CAN	-6	2009
3 Saint Cloud, MN	\$21,152	2008	43	Saint Cloud, MN	\$8,210	2010	83	Calgary, AB, CAN	\$5,431	2008	16	Coeymans, NY, NY	-6	2014
4 Arvada (Denver), CO	\$20,000	2014	44	Grand Junction / Palisades, CO	\$8,000	2008	84	Charlotte, NC	\$5,362	2002	16	South River, ON, CAN	-6	2004
5 Arvada (Denver), CO	\$15,271	2013	44	Kansas City, KS	\$8,000	2012	85	Charlotte, NC	\$5,359	2003	16	Sudbury, ON	-6	2015
6 Arvada (Denver), CO	\$15,139	2011	44	Arlington, TX	\$8,000	2000	86	Kansas City, KS	\$5,335	2010	23	Edmonton, AB, CAN	-5	2012
7 Arvada (Denver), CO	\$15,078	2010	44	Kansas City, KS, KS	\$8,000	2015	87	Huntington, WV	\$5,297	2006	23	Kamlooops, BC, CAN	-5	2008
8 Arvada (Denver), CO	\$14,794	2009	44	Oswego, IL, IL	\$8,000	2015	88	Norwalk, CT	\$5,272	2002	23	Kamlooops, BC, CAN	-5	2009
9 Saint Cloud, MN	\$14,766	2011	49	Charlotte, NC	\$7,700	2009	89	Charlton, MA	\$5,216	2010	23	Winnipeg, MB, CAN	-5	2001
10 Saint Cloud, MN	\$14,000	2006	50	Orchard Park, NY, NY	\$7,500	2014	90	Calgary, AB, CAN	\$5,194	2009	23	Saint Cloud, MN	-5	2005
11 Saint Cloud, MN	\$13,366	2005	51	Troy, MI, MI	\$7,400	2015	91	Charlotte, NC	\$5,193	2010	Тор	25 Snowiest Ice Bowls		
12 Tulsa, OK	\$13,082	2015	52	Tallahassee, FL	\$7,230	2011	92	Grand Junction / Palisades, CO	\$5,173	2013	1	Halifax, NS, CAN	80	2015
13 Charlotte, NC	\$12,798	2007	53	Chattanooga, TN	\$7,228	2011	93	Tulsa, OK	\$5,081	2009	2	Ayers, MA, MA	67	2015
14 Tulsa, OK	\$12,519	2012	54	Tallahassee, FL	\$7,111	2009	94	Waterbury Center, VT	\$5,055	2011	3	Limerick, ME, ME	58	2015
15 Waterbury Center, VT	\$12,143	2015	55	Arvada, CO	\$7,107	2006	95	Sarasota, FL, FL	\$5,015	2015	4	Saint Cloud, MN	50	1997
16 Huntington, WV	\$11,922	2009	56	Chattanooga, TN	\$7,104	2012	96	Houston, TX	\$5,005	2004	5	Watrous, SK, CAN	48	2011
17 Charlotte, NC	\$11,701	2005	57	Charlotte, NC	\$7,042	2012	96	Grand Junction / Palisades, CO	\$5,000	2012	5	Cascade, ID	48	2000
18 Arvada (Denver), CO	\$11,629	2008	58	Oswego, IL, IL	\$7,000	2014	96	Houston, TX	\$5,000	2000	7	South River, ON, CAN	47	2011
19 Tulsa, OK	\$11,389	2014	59	Buffalo (Orchard Park), NY	\$6,605	2011	96	Houston, TX	\$5,000	2001	8	Buffalo, NY	46	2015
20 Tulsa, OK	\$11,100	2013	60	Lockport, IL, IL	\$6,548	2015	100	Chattanooga, TN	\$4,841	2013	9	Anchorage, AK	45	2004
21 Saint Cloud, MN	\$10,677	2013	61	Troy, MI	\$6,400	2013	Top 2	5 Coldest Ice Bowls			9	Anchorage (Chugiak), AK	45	2013
22 Jefferson, NC	\$10,556	2008	61	Eugene, OR	\$6,400	2013	1	Saint Cloud, MN	-29	1996	9	Anchorage, AK	45	2007
23 Charlotte, NC	\$10,123	2006	63	Houston, TX	\$6,328	2003	2	Saskatoon, SK CAN	-19	2014	12	South River, ON, CAN	44	2006
24 Saint Cloud, MN	\$10,070	2012	64	Kansas City, KS	\$6,292	2013	3	Sanborn, IA	-16	2008	12	North Grosvenor Dale, CT	44	2011
25 Charlotte, NC	\$9,932	2008	65	Waterbury Center, VT	\$6,126	2012	4	Winnipeg, MB, CAN	-15	2013	14	Skowhegan, ME	42	2003
26 Waterbury Center, VT	\$9,504	2014	66	Troy, MI	\$6,000	2012	4	Saint Cloud, MN	-15	2008	14	Fraser, CO	42	1997
27 Saint Cloud, MN	\$9,442	2015	66	Troy, MI	\$6,000	2014	6	Roseville, MN	-12	2011	14	Fraser, CO	42	1998
28 Channahon, IL, IL	\$9,334	2014	68	Grand Junction / Palisades, CO	\$5,944	2006	7	Gatineau, QC	-11	2004	14	Kalkaska, MI	42	2009
29 Channahon, IL	\$9,332	2013	69	Oswego, IL	\$5,885	2013	7	Aberdeen, SD	-11	2007	18	Roseville, MN	40	2011
30 St. Cloud, MN	\$9,323	2014	70	Saint Paul, MN	\$5,745	2012	9	Edmonton, AB CAN	-10	2014	18	Limerick, ME	40	2009
31 Saint Cloud, MN	\$9,316	2009	71	Tallahassee, FL	\$5,720	2008	9	Saint Cloud, MN	-10	1997	18	Easton, MA	40	2011
32 Arvada (Denver), CO	\$9,262	2007	72	Buffalo, NY	\$5,704	2010	11	Edmonton, AB, CAN	-9	2009	21	Syracuse, NY	38	2007
33 Buffalo, NY	\$9,215	2013	73	Channahon, IL	\$5,700	2011	11	Edmonton, AB, CAN	-9	2011	21	Durango, CO	38	2008
34 Kansas City, KS	\$9,200	2014	74	Tulsa, OK	\$5,643	2011	13	Winnipeg, MB, CAN	-8	2003	23	South River, ON, CAN	37	2004
35 Charlotte, NC	\$9,055	2004	75	Charlotte, NC	\$5,630	2015	13	South River, ON, CAN	-8	2006	23	Hibbing, MN	37	2011
36 Buffalo, NY	\$8,825	2015	76	Grand Junction / Palisades, CO	\$5,620	2011	15	Jamestown, ND	-7	2013	25	Fernie, BC, CAN	36	2006
37 Huntington, WV	\$8,700	2008	77	Arlington, TX	\$5,600	2002	16	Helsinki, FINLAND	-6	2010	25	Kalkaska, MI	36	2014
38 Channahon, IL	\$8,600	2012	78	Tulsa, OK	\$5,570	2010								
39 Tallahassee, FL	\$8,440	2010	79	Chattanooga, TN	\$5.526	2007								