

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 in Albert-Oakland Park was always there in Columbia, Missouri, and it was certainly possible to get a buddy or three to go out for a round, it was always more fun to get as many people as possible together for a couple of rounds. Rick Rothstein dreamed up the event and decided that the Sunday before the Super Bowl would be the perfect time, since no one would have to miss any football play-off games on TV, and maybe he could entice some local media to check out the disc golfers playing in the winter weather. Little did anyone know that the Ice Bowl would become a traditional, annual event that would eventually raise over \$2 million in charitable contributions, specifically targeted to fight hunger and feed the hungry.



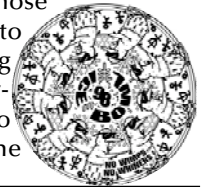
Rick had joined the PDGA in 1983, as member #2458, and jumped in early on to get a disc golf

ment each year 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

tures, 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 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 more than 3,500 today, and the PDGA numbering system was right around 4,500, as opposed to the current number that is over 56,000. 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



Year	Players	Events	Cash	Pounds	Avg Temp °F	Avg Snow - In.	History of Ice Bowl		Coldest	Snowiest
							Leading Fundraiser	Leading Food Collector		
1987	34	1							Columbia MO 25°	Columbia, MO 5"
1988	150	8							NA	NA
1989	265	14							NA	NA
1990	753	31							NA	NA
1991	433	20							NA	NA
1992	850	30							Milwaukee, WI -2°	Shelby Twp , MI 18"
1993	977	35							Fraser, CO -4°	Fraser, CO 38"
1994	1,250	44							Fraser, CO -6°	Black Forest, CO 20"
1995	2,195	71							Austin, MN -3°	Columbia, MO 19"
1996	1,953	56	\$1,434	3,193					St Cloud, MN -10°	St Cloud, MN 27"
1997	2,905	75	\$7,973	5,109					St Cloud, MN -29°	St Cloud, MN 50"
1998	3,683	90	\$19,579	12,606					Vassalboro, ME 8°	Fraser, CO 40"
1999	3,466	84	\$28,192	14,398	44.7	2.3			Hoting, SWEDEN -19°	Cascade, OR 40"
2000	3,971	98	\$37,109	35,188	34.8	3.9			Burnboro, ME -1°	Cascade, OR 48"
2001	4,419	113	\$43,403	21,127	35.0	4.7			Winnipeg, MB -5°	Skowhegan, ME 36"
2002	5,651	137	\$65,531	12,038	41.6	3.2			Winnipeg, MB -8°	Skowhegan, ME 30"
2003	6,337	154	\$72,886	26,386	31.1	3.2			Winnipeg, MB -6°	Skowhegan, ME 30"
2004	6,561	170	\$86,887	17,489	29.0	5.2			Gatineau, QC -11°	Anchorage, AK 45"
2005	7,062	186	\$128,210	23,268	36.9	2.6			Saint Cloud, MN -5°	South River, ON, CAN 36"
2006	7,821	175	\$164,328	23,548	40.0	1.2			South River, ON, CAN -8°	South River, ON, CAN 44"
2007	8,982	201	\$197,995	35,834	34.1	3.3			Aberdeen, SD -11°	Anchorage, AK 45"
2008	11,511	228	\$257,642	52,402	36.0	3.2			Sanborn, IA -16°	Durango, CO 38"
2009	7,958	212	\$246,936	57,836	35.9	3.5			Edmonton, ON -9°	Kalkaska, MI 42"
2010	11,825	226	\$261,478	67,966	35.3	5.1			Helsinki, FINLAND -6°	Brandon, SD; Sanborn, IA
2011	12,430	235	\$276,670	59,668	36.7	6.6			Roseville, MN -12°	Watrous, SK 48"
2012	13,574	233	\$300,307	79,149	38.6	1.6			Edmonton, AB, CAN -5°	Huntsville, ON, CAN 30"
2013	13,321	240	\$311,422	65,166	36.3	3.0			Winnipeg, MB, CAN -15°	Chugiak, AK 45"
Totals	140,382	3,168	\$2,508,582	612,496	36.4	3.5				



club started in Columbia, to start a publication that provided communication and connected disc golfers throughout the country, and to organize and run a national tourna-

wimps, and eventually, no whiners, 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 pic-

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 more 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, the 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 contestants, low temperatures (or high temps in the 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 a 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



Through the years, of course, the 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 contestants, low temperatures (or high temps in the 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 a 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



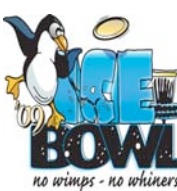
Bowl on the following weekend. Some players started traveling out of state to attend particular Ice Bowls. It expanded first to an Ice Bowl Weekend and eventually to what it is today—an Ice Bowl Corridor that encompasses every weekend in January and February.

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

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



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 golf has raised over \$2.5 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 bring new players out for their 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 no whining allowed, 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.

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 bring new players out for their 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 no whining allowed, 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.

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 bring new players out for their 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 no whining allowed, 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

1	Saint Cloud, MN	\$21,610	2007	T44	Troy, MI	\$6,400	2013	86	Tallahassee, FL	\$4,569	2007	T14	Winnipeg, MB	-6	2002
2	Saint Cloud, MN	\$21,152	2008	T44	Eugene, OR	\$6,400	2013	88	Durham Bridge, NB	\$4,550	2010	T14	Springfield, IL	-6	2007
3	Arvada, CO	\$15,271	2013	46	Houston, TX	\$6,328	2003	89	San Antonio, TX	\$4,442	2011	T14	Winnipeg, MB	-6	2009
4	Arvada, CO	\$15,139	2011	47	Kansas City, KS	\$6,292	2013	90	Jasper, AR	\$4,410	2013	T19	Saint Cloud, MN	-5	2005
5	Arvada, CO	\$15,078	2010	48	Waterbury Center, VT	\$6,126	2012	91	Arvada, CO	\$4,351	2005	T19	Kamloops, BC	-5	2008
6	Arvada, CO	\$14,794	2009	49	Troy, MI	\$6,000	2012	T92	Arlington, TX	\$4,300	2001	T19	Kamloops, BC	-5	2009
7	Saint Cloud, MN	\$14,766	2011	50	Palisade, CO	\$5,944	2006	T92	Kansas City, KS	\$4,300	2009	T19	Edmonton, AB	-5	2012
8	Saint Cloud, MN	\$14,000	2006	51	Oswego, IL	\$5,885	2013	94	Kalkaska, MI	\$4,175	2013	T19	Winnipeg, MB	-5	2001
9	Saint Cloud, MN	\$13,366	2005	52	Saint Paul, MN	\$5,745	2012	95	Los Angeles, CA	\$4,074	2007	24	Des Moines, IA	-4	2007
10	Charlotte, NC	\$12,798	2007	53	Tallahassee, FL	\$5,720	2008	96	Palisade, CO	\$4,046	2009	25	Kamloops, BC	-3	2005
11	Tulsa, OK	\$12,519	2012	54	Buffalo, NY	\$5,704	2010	97	Aurora, IL	\$4,043	2011				
12	Huntington, WV	\$11,922	2009	55	Channahon, IL	\$5,700	2011	98	Kansas City, KS	\$4,042	2008				
13	Charlotte, NC	\$11,701	2005	56	Tulsa, OK	\$5,643	2011	99	Hazelwood, MO	\$4,033	2013	1	Saint Cloud, MN	50	1997
14	Arvada, CO	\$11,629	2008	57	Palisade, CO	\$5,620	2011	100	Charlotte, NC	\$4,025	2013	T2	Watrous, SK	48	2011
15	Tulsa, OK	\$11,100	2013	58	Arlington, TX	\$5,600	2002					T2	Cascade, ID	48	2000
16	Saint Cloud, MN	\$10,877	2013	59	Tulsa, OK	\$5,570	2010					4	South River, ON	47	2011
17	Jefferson, NC	\$10,556	2008	60	Chattanooga, TN	\$5,526	2007					T5	Chugiak, Alaska, AK	45	2013
18	Charlotte, NC	\$10,123	2006	T61	Buffalo, NY	\$5,500	2009					T5	Anchorage, AK	45	2004
19	Saint Cloud, MN	\$10,070	2012	T61	Houston, TX	\$5,500	2002					T5	Anchorage, AK	45	2007
20	Charlotte, NC	\$9,932	2008	63	Clagary, AB	\$5,462	2011					T8	South River, ON	44	2006
21	Channahon, IL	\$9,332	2013	64	Calgary, AB	\$5,431	2008					T8	N Grosvenor Dale, CT	44	2011
22	Saint Cloud, MN	\$9,316	2009	65	Charlotte, NC	\$5,362	2002					T10	Skowhegan, ME	42	2003
23	Arvada, CO	\$9,262	2007	66	Charlotte, NC	\$5,359	2003					T10	Fraser, CO	42	1997
24	Buffalo, NY	\$9,215	2013	67	Kansas City, KS	\$5,335	2010					T10	Fraser, CO	42	1998
25	Charlotte, NC	\$9,055	2004	68	Huntington, WV	\$5,297	2006					T10	Kalkaska, MI	42	2009
26	Huntington, WV	\$8,700	2008	69	Norwalk, CT	\$5,272	2002					T14	Roseville, MN	40	2011
27	Channahon, IL	\$8,600	2012	70	Charlton, MA	\$5,216	2010					T14	Limerick, ME	40	2009
28	Tallahassee, FL	\$8,440	2010	71	Calgary, AB	\$5,194	2009					T14	Easton, MA	40	2011
29	Waterbury Center, VT	\$8,415	2013	72	Charlotte, NC	\$5,193	2010					T17	Syracuse, NY	38	2007
30	Huntington, WV	\$8,386	2010	73	Palisade, CO	\$5,173	2013					T17	Durango, CO	38	2008
31	Buffalo, NY	\$8,255	2012	74	Tulsa, OK	\$5,081	2009					T17	South River, ON	37	2004
32	Saint Cloud, MN	\$8,210	2010	T75	Waterbury Center, VT	\$5,055	2011					T17	Hibbing, MN	37	2011
133	Palisade, CO	\$8,000	2008	T75	Houston, TX	\$5,005	2004					T20	Fernie, BC	36	2006
133	Arlington, TX	\$8,000	2000	T77	Palisade, CO	\$5,000	2012					T20	Petoskey, MI	36	2004
133	Kansas City, KS	\$8,000	2012	T77	Houston, TX	\$5,000	2000					T20	South River, ON	36	2005
36	Charlotte, NC	\$7,700	2009	T77	Houston, TX	\$5,000	2001					T20	Durham Bridge, NB	36	2009
37	Tallahassee, FL	\$7,230	2011	80	Chattanooga, TN	\$4,841	2013					T20	Jamestown, ND	36	2009
38	Chattanooga, TN	\$7,228	2011	81	Durham Bridge, NB	\$4,831	2009					T20	Traverse City, MI	36	2009
39	Tallahassee, FL	\$7,111	2009	82	Palisade, CO	\$4,690	2010					T20	South River, ON	36	2006
40	Anvada, CO	\$7,107	2006	83	Huntington, WV	\$4,684	2007					T11	Winnipeg, MB	-8	2003
41	Chattanooga, TN	\$7,104	2012	84	Troy, MI	\$4,650	2011					T13	Jamestown, ND	-7	2013
42	Charlotte, NC	\$7,042	2012	85	Saint Paul, MN	\$4,621	2013					T14	Helsinki, FINLAND	-6	2010

Top 10 Food Donations

1	Huntington, WV	25,000	2000
2	Rocklin, CA	24,352	2012
3	Newtown, PA	12,790	2008
4	Rocklin, CA	11,601	2009
5	Newtown, PA	11,497	2013
6	Huntington, WV	9,801	2003
7	Newtown, PA	9,713	2010
8	Huntington, WV	9,521	2001
9	Rocklin, CA	6,876	2010
10	Huntington, WV	6,003	1999

Top 25 Coldest (°F)

1	Saint Cloud, MN	-29	1996
2	Sanborn, IA	-16	2008
3	Saint Cloud, MN	-15	2008
4	Winnipeg, MB	-15	2013
5	Roseville, MN	-12	2011
6	Gatineau, QC	-11	2004
7	Aberdeen, SD	-11	2007
8	Saint Cloud, MN	-10	1997
9	Edmonton, AB	-9	2009
10	Edmonton, AB	-9	2011
11	South River, ON	-8	2006
12	Winnipeg, MB	-8	2003
13	Jamestown, ND	-7	2013
14	Helsinki, FINLAND	-6	2010

Top 25 Most Snow (in.)

1	Saint Cloud, MN	50	1997
2	Watrous, SK	48	2011
3	Cascade, ID	48	2000
4	South River, ON	47	2011
5	Chugiak, Alaska, AK	45	2013
6	Anchorage, AK	45	2004
7	Anchorage, AK	45	2007
8	South River, ON	44	2006
9	N Grosvenor Dale, CT	44	2011
10	Skowhegan, ME	42	2003
11	Fraser, CO	42	1997
12	Fraser, CO	42	1998
13	Kalkaska, MI	42	2009
14	Roseville, MN	40	2011
15	Limerick, ME	40	2009
16	Easton, MA	40	2011
17	Syracuse, NY	38	2007
18	Durango, CO	38	2008
19	South River, ON	37	2004
20	Hibbing, MN	37	2011
21	Fernie, BC	36	2006
22	Petoskey, MI	36	2004
23	South River, ON	36	2005
24	Durham Bridge, NB	36	2009
25	Jamestown, ND	36	2009
26	Traverse City, MI	36	2009
27	Skowhegan, ME	36	2001