

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.



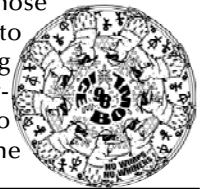
Rick had joined the PDGA in 1983, as member #2458, and jumped in early on to get a disc golf

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



History of Ice Bowl

Year	Players	Events	Cash	Pounds	Avg Temp °F	Avg Snow - Inches	Leading Fundraiser	Leading Food Collector	Coldest	Snowiest
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							NA	NA
1993	977	35							NA	NA
1994	1,250	44							NA	NA
1995	2,195	71							NA	NA
1996	1,953	56	\$1,434	3,193			Houston, TX-\$310	West Milford, NJ-300	St Cloud, MN -10°	St Cloud, MN 27"
1997	2,905	75	\$7,973	5,109			Des Moines, IA-\$910	Des Moines-584	St Cloud, MN -29°	St Cloud, MN 50"
1998	3,683	90	\$19,579	12,606			Arlington, TX-\$1,800	Huntington, WV-5,360	Vassalboro, ME 8°	Frasier, CO 40°
1999	3,466	84	\$28,192	14,398	44.7	2.3	Houston, TX-\$3,100	Huntington, WV-6,003	Hoting, SWEDEN -19°	Cascade, OR 40°
2000	3,971	98	\$37,109	35,188	34.8	3.9	Arlington, TX-\$8,000	Huntington, WV-696	Burnboro, ME -1°	Cascade, OR 48°
2001	4,419	113	\$43,403	21,127	35.0	4.7	Houston, TX-\$5,000	Huntington, WV-9,521	Winnipeg, MB -5°	Skowhegan, ME 36°
2002	5,651	137	\$65,531	12,038	41.6	3.2	Arlington, TX-\$5,600	Huntington, WV-25,000	Winnipeg, MB -8°	Skowhegan, ME 30°
2003	6,337	154	\$72,886	26,386	31.1	3.2	Houston, TX-\$6,328	Huntington, WV-9,801	Winnipeg, MB -6°	Skowhegan, ME 30°
2004	6,561	170	\$86,887	17,489	29.0	5.2	Charlotte, NC-\$9,055	Rock Hill, SC & Las Vegas, NV-800	Gatineau, QC -11°	Anchorage, AK 45°
2005	7,062	186	\$128,210	23,268	36.9	2.6	Saint Cloud, MN-\$13,366	Newtown, PA-905	Saint Cloud, MN -5°	South River, ON, CAN 36°
2006	7,821	175	\$164,328	23,548	40.0	1.2	Saint Cloud, MN-\$14,000	Newtown, PA-1,778	South River, ON, CAN -8°	South River, ON, CAN 44°
2007	8,982	201	\$197,995	35,834	34.1	3.3	Saint Cloud, MN, \$21,610	Newtown, PA-4,506	Aberdeen, SD -11°	Anchorage, AK 45°
2008	11,511	228	\$257,642	52,402	36.0	3.2	Saint Cloud, MN-\$21,152	Newtown, PA-12,790	Sanborn, IA -16°	Durango, CO 38°
2009	7,958	212	\$246,936	57,836	35.9	3.5	Arvada, CO-\$14,794	Rocklin, CA-11,601	Edmonton, ON -9°	Kalkaska, MI 42°
2010	11,825	226	\$261,478	67,966	35.3	5.1	Arvada, CO-\$15,078	Newtown, PA-9,713	Helsinki, FINLAND -6°	Brandon, SD; Sanborn, IA
2011	12,430	235	\$276,670	59,668	36.7	6.6	Arvada, CO-\$15,139	Rocklin, CA-5,179	Roseville, MN -12°	Watrous, SK 48°
2012	13,574	233	\$300,307	79,149	38.6	1.6	Tulsa, OK-\$12,519	Rocklin, CA-24352	Edmonton, AB, CAN -5°	Huntsville, ON, CAN 30°
Totals	127,016	2,927	\$2,196,560	547,205	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-

ture, 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.



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



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

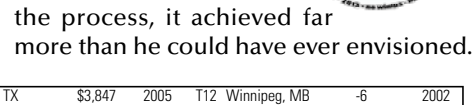
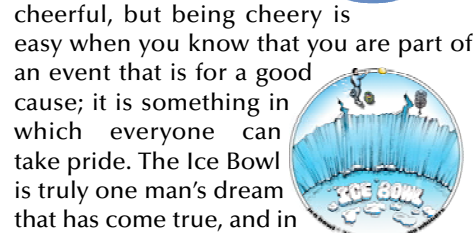
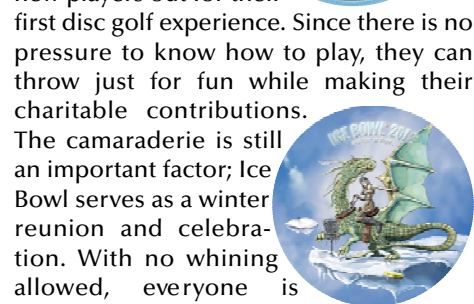
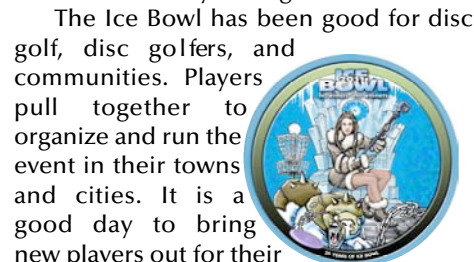
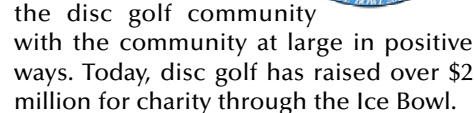
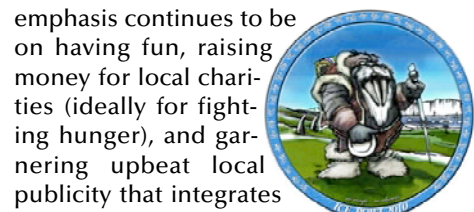


In 1994 Rick started vending discs and clothing featuring the Ice Bowl logo and coordinating the events wherever they were held. The mission to fight hunger by raising money and food for local food banks, which was put into place in 1996 (thanks to the Indianapolis Disc Golf Club who had raised money 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 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. Today, disc golf has raised over \$2 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.



Top 100 Cash Donations															
1	Saint Cloud, MN	\$21,610	2007	43	Tallahassee, FL	\$5,720	2008	86	Houston, TX	\$3,847	2005	T12	Winnipeg, MB	-6	2002
2	Saint Cloud, MN	\$21,152	2008	44	Buffalo, NY	\$5,704	2010	87	Arlington, TX, TX	\$3,800	2003	T16	Kamloops, BC	-5	2008
3	Arvada, CO	\$15,139	2011	45	Channahon, IL	\$5,700	2011	88	Charlotte, NC	\$3,773	2000	T16	Kamloops, BC	-5	2009
4	Arvada, CO	\$15,078	2010	46	Tulsa, OK	\$5,643	2011	89	Durham Bridge, NB	\$3,675	2012	T16	Saint Cloud, MN	-5	2005
5	Arvada, CO	\$14,794	2009	47	Palisade, CO	\$5,620	2010	90	Waterbury Center, VT	\$3,665	2010	T16	Edmonton, AB	-5	2012
6	Saint Cloud, MN	\$14,766	2011	48	Arlington, TX	\$5,600	2002	91	Calgary, AB	\$3,661	2007	T16	Winnipeg, MB	-5	2001
7	Saint Cloud, MN	\$14,000	2006	49	Tulsa, OK	\$5,570	2010	92	Los Angeles, CA	\$3,626	2006	21	Des Moines, IA	-4	2007
8	Saint Cloud, MN	\$13,366	2005	50	Chattanooga, TN	\$5,526	2007	93	Aurora, Illinois, IL	\$3,604	2012	22	Kamloops, BC	-3	2005
9	Charlotte, NC	\$12,798	2007	51	Buffalo, NY	\$5,500	2009	94	Hazelwood, MO	\$3,602	2009	T23	Fernie, BC	-2	2006
10	Tulsa, OK	\$12,519	2012	53	Houston, TX	\$5,500	2002	95	Channahon, IL	\$3,559	2010	T23	Anchorage, AK	-2	2005
11	Huntington, WV	\$11,922	2009	54	Calgary, AB	\$5,462	2011	96	San Antonio, TX	\$3,531	2010	T23	Saint Paul, MN	-2	2004
12	Charlotte, NC	\$11,701	2005	55	Calgary, AB	\$5,431	2008	97	Jefferson City, MO	\$3,518	2012	T23	Milan, IL	-2	2007
13	Arvada, CO	\$11,629	2008	56	Charlotte, NC	\$5,362	2002	98	Durham Bridge, NB	\$3,404	2011	T23	Wasilla, AK	-2	2006
14	Jefferson, NC	\$10,556	2008	57	Charlotte, NC	\$5,359	2003	99	Wichita, KS	\$3,350	2012	T23	Winnipeg, MB	-2	2012
15	Charlotte, NC	\$10,123	2006	58	Kansas City, KS	\$5,335	2010	100	Indianapolis, IN	\$3,342	2012				
16	Saint Cloud, MN	\$10,070	2012	59	Huntington, WV	\$5,297	2006								
17	Charlotte, NC	\$9,932	2008	58	Norwalk, CT	\$5,272	2002								
18	Saint Cloud, MN	\$9,316	2009	60	Charlton, MA	\$5,216	2010								
19	Arvada, CO	\$9,262	2007	61	Calgary, AB	\$5,194	2009								
20	Charlotte, NC	\$9,055	2004	62	Charlotte, NC	\$5,193	2010								
21	Huntington, WV	\$8,700	2008	63	Tulsa, OK	\$5,081	2009								
22	Channahon, IL	\$8,600	2012	64	Waterbury Center, VT	\$5,055	2011								
23	Tallahassee, FL	\$8,440	2010	T66	Houston, TX	\$5,005	2004								
24	Huntington, WV	\$8,386	2010	T66	Houston, TX	\$5,000	2001								
25	Buffalo, NY	\$8,255	2012	T66	Houston, TX	\$5,000	2000								
26	Saint Cloud, MN	\$8,210	2010	T66	Palisade, CO	\$5,000	2012								
27	Palisade, CO	\$8,000	2008	69	Durham Bridge, NB	\$4,831	2009								
28	Arlington, TX	\$8,000	2000	70	Palisade, CO	\$4,690	2010								
29	Kansas City, KS	\$8,000	2012	71	Huntington, WV	\$4,684	2007								
30	Charlotte, NC	\$7,700	2009	72	Troy, MI	\$4,650	2011								
31	Tallahassee, FL	\$7,230	2011	73	Tallahassee, FL	\$4,569	2007								
32	Chattanooga, TN	\$7,228	2011	74	Tallahassee, FL	\$4,563	2012								
33	Tallahassee, FL	\$7,111	2009	75	Durham Bridge, NB	\$4,550	2010								
34	Arvada, CO	\$7,107	2006	76	San Antonio, TX	\$4,442	2011								
35	Chattanooga, TN	\$7,104	2012	77	Arvada, CO	\$4,351	2005								
36	Charlotte, NC	\$7,042	2012	T78	Kansas City, KS	\$4,300	2009								
37	Buffalo, NY	\$6,605	2011	T78	Arlington, TX	\$4,300	2001								
38	Houston, TX	\$6,328	2003	80	Los Angeles, CA	\$4,074	2007								
39	Waterbury Center, VT	\$6,126	2012	81	Palisade, CO	\$4,046	2009								
40	Troy, MI	\$6,000	2012	82	Aurora, Illinois, IL	\$4,043	2011								
41	Palisade, CO	\$5,944	2006	83	Kansas City, KS	\$4,042	2008								
42	St. Paul, MN	\$5,745	2012	84	Kansas City, KS	\$4,020	2006								
				85	Hazelwood, MO	\$3,900	2012								

Top 10 Food Donations							
1	Huntington, WV	25,000	2000	1	Huntington, WV	6,003	1999
2	Rocklin, CA	24,352	2012	2	Rocklin, CA	6,876	2010
3	Newtown, PA	12,790	2008	3	Edmonton, AB	6,876	2010
4	Rocklin, CA	11,801	2009	4	Rocklin, CA	6,876	2010
5	Huntington, WV	9,801	2003	5	Huntington, WV	6,003	1999
6	Newtown, PA	9,713	2010				
7	Huntington, WV	9,521	2001				
8	Edmonton, AB	9,521	2000				
9	Fraser, CO	8,200	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	Roseville, MI	-12	2011
5	Gatineau, QC	-11	2004
6	Aberdeen, SD	-11	2007
7	Saint Cloud, MN	-10	1997
8	Edmonton, AB	-9	2009
9	Edmonton, AB	-9	2011
10	South River, ON	-8	2006
11	Winnipeg, MB	-8	2003
12	South River, ON	-6	2004
13	Springfield, IL	-6	2007
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	Anchorage, AK	45	2004
6	Anchorage, AK	45	2007
7	South River, ON	44	2006
8	N Grosvenor Dale, CT	44	2011
9	Skowhegan, ME	42	2003
10	Fraser, CO	42	1997
11	Fraser, CO	42	1998
12	Kalkaska, MI	42	2009
13	Roseville, MI	40	2011
14	Limerick, ME	40	2009
15	Easton, MA	40	2011
16	Syracuse, NY	38	2007
17	Durango, CO	38	2008
18	South River, ON	37	2004
19	Hibbing, MN	37	2011
20	Durham Bridge, NB	36	2009
21	Fernie, BC	36	2006
22	Petoskey, MI	36	2004
23	South River, ON	36	2005
24	Jamesstown, ND	36	2009
25	Traverse City, MI	36	2009
26	Skowhegan, ME	36	2001