

Mikail R. Russo
(More Opportunities for NEighborhood Youth)
MONEY Athletic Foundation
2004 Annual Newsletter

Thanks to Our Many Contributors

The MONEY Athletic Foundation would once again like to thank our many loyal supporters. Due to the generosity of individual donors and the community sponsorship of the Annual Home Run Derby, the Foundation has helped 41 individual young athletes and 4 area teams to attend camps, purchase equipment, and travel to compete with other teams.

Fiscally, the Foundation is sound. Individual donations in 2004 totaled \$7,661 (this included a \$1,500 contribution from United Mid-Coast Charities) and the Derby raised \$6,767. The Board of Directors awarded \$12,809.50 throughout the year, for an average award of \$284. In the last three years, MONEY has given over \$31,027 to mid-coast athletes in memory of Mikail.

Most of the awards allowed kids to attend camps in the state of Maine. They included Pine Tree Basketball Camp; UMO basketball, softball, field hockey, and baseball camps; Colby Girls Basketball Camp; Olympic Development Soccer Camp; and local basketball, soccer, field hockey, gymnastics, and tennis camps or lessons. Other scholarships enabled athletes to attend BU Wrestling Camp, Lehigh University Swim Camp, a National AAU Basketball Tournament in North Carolina, and the Down Under Bowl Soccer Tournament in Australia.

In addition, MONEY helped Knox County American Legion Baseball, Camden-Rockport Babe Ruth and the Five Town Girls Basketball Organization. Although the basic criterion for an award is need, the Board believes that individuals and teams should show their commitment by raising a percent of the necessary funds themselves.



New Board Member

With the retirement of Board member Mike Pierce, the Board's misfortune turned to good fortune with the addition of Rory O'Donnell. Rory is a recent graduate of Colby-Sawyer College and is presently writing for the sport's section of the Village Soup in Belfast. He has participated and offered his indefatigable arm at each Home Run Derby. We welcome him and thank Mike for his three years of selfless devotion.

The 3rd Annual Home Run Derby

The skies cleared, despite a gloomy weekend forecast and rain for much of the morning, in time for the Foundation's Third Annual Home Run Derby, held Sunday, May 23 on Mazzeo Field at Rockport Recreation Park.

Camden Hills Regional High School freshman Noah Burke led the field after the first round, blasting seven home runs. After the field was narrowed to 10 hitters for the second round of cuts, Georges Valley High School junior Matt Judkins (six first-round home runs) leapfrogged Burke and was crowned the 2004 champion. Burke finished as runner-up with 11 homers, one behind Judkins' total of 12.

The home run derby featured 23 student-athletes from Belfast Area High School, Camden Hills Regional High School, Georges Valley High School, Medomak Valley High School and Rockland District High School.

Players were given 10 swings per at-bat and were awarded two points for balls that cleared the regulation fence and one point for balls that traveled over a shortened fence.

As a team, Camden Hills slugged 54 home runs with eight hitters, winning the team competition. The Windjammers received tickets to a Portland Sea Dogs game donated by Micucci Wholesale. Other team scores were: Rockland, 25 home runs, seven hitters; Medomak

May your New Year be filled with warmth, love, and kindness!

Derby Continued

Valley, 18, three hitters; Georges Valley, 14, three hitters; and Belfast, 5, two hitters.

Each participant was required to sell 10 raffle tickets to participate. Camden Hills senior Tom Dennen sold the most tickets, winning four box seats to the Boston Red Sox donated by Rick Bresnahan. Medomak Valley's D.J. Camber was the second leading fund-raiser and was awarded a new baseball glove from Coastal Athletics.

The top 10 individual sluggers were: Judkins, GV, 12; Burke, CH, 11; Caleb Peats, CH, 10; Trevey Davis, CH, 9; Tom Kennedy, Med, 9; Dennen, CH, 8; Wes Drinkwater, Rock, 8; Ian Doherty, CH, 7; Greg Crupi, Rock, 7; and Sam Adolphsen, Med, 7.

Wade Oliver, Rock, 3; John Coppola, Rock, 3; Andrew Rogers, Camden Hills, 3; Steve McGuire, Rock, 3; Miles Davee, CH, 3; Nick Arthers, Bel, 3; Jake Arthers, Bel, 2; Michael Cummons, CH, 2; John Dean, Rock, 2; Randy Maloney, GV, 2; D.J. Camber, Med, 2; Elisha Sprague, GV, 1; and Ben Baudanza-Sturks, Rock, 0.

For a \$20 donation, members of the audience were allowed to step into the batter's box. J.D. Rainey led the adult open, belting eight homers. Shawn Hiller, Rory O'Donnell and Patrick Alyward all went deep six times and John Russo, Matt Cates, Dan O'Connell, Keagan Russo and Paul Russo all left the yard five times.

Following the event, **MONEY** President Keagan Russo was pleased with the support of the Midcoast community. "People have been very, very willing to give to this foundation, Russo said. "I think we have a lot of buy-in from the community. It's a one-of-a-kind charity that really has its niche in the community. We appreciate all the support."

The local businesses, individuals, and organizations that contributed to the Derby Raffle include: Camden River House; Bayview Lobster; Wild Rufus; Camden Bagel Café; Atlantica Restaurant; Owl & Turtle Bookstore; Chris Van Dusen; Whale's Tooth Pub; Penobscot YMCA; The Black Bull; The Samoset Resort; Peter Otts Restaurant; Waterfront Restaurant; P.G. Willey; Sebasco Harbor Resort; McMahon's Restaurant; Wilderness Ways Guiding; MBNA; Lily, Lupine, and Fern; Jessie's Pies; Brad Scott; Camden Irving; Fitzpatrick's Café; Peter Henderson; Penobscot Golf Club; Rockport Lobster; Buccaneer Basketball Camp; Scott's Place; Gordon Best; Rockland Golf Club; Goose River Golf Club; Maine Gold; Eastern Mussel Farm; and Party Fundamentals.

Also deserving thanks are the T-shirt sponsors, Camden Custom Embroidery for the derby hats, those who helped on the field and in the food tent, and those who contributed food, drinks, and ice.

THANKS!

Gifts From the Heart

A number of individuals and groups have given to the Foundation in honor of others. This year the list includes: employee gift giving through MBNA; an employee matching contribution from FMC; sales from the Camden Hills Calendar Co.; contributions in lieu of gifts for Julia Kosowsky's Bat Mitzvah; in loving memory of Jeff Oakes; and holiday giving in the name of James and Barbara Leeper from Paul Leeper and Debra McIntyre.

Closing Comments from the Kids

I would personally like to thank you. . . I have been playing field hockey for about a year and being able to attend the world camp USA will improve my ability to play the sport –A LOT! I came from an outlying school, where field hockey was not offered, and this opportunity to learn more about it is one that not all kids are presented with, and I am truly appreciative.

--Laura

I had an awesome time at basketball camp. We scrimmaged a lot, and played a lot of knockout. It was so fun. Thank you for sending me there.

--Morgan

I appreciate the time and effort the **MONEY** Athletic Foundation puts in to help make dreams become realizations for young athletes. Thanks so much

--Anna

PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP LOCAL YOUTH SUCCEED

The address to send your tax-deductible dollars to is:

MONEY Athletic Foundation

50 Bull Hill Rd.

Hope, ME 04847

www.moneyathleticfoundation.org