

Many turn out for the hot dog eating contest

By Karen Krien

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Before the noon whistle blew Fourth of July, a crowd of people

had gathered at Uptown Market to eat the All-American Hot Dog meal and wait for the hot dog eating contest to begin.

Rodney Neitzel, owner of Uptown, and Roger Neitzel, owner of Roger Neitzel Heating and Air Conditioning, both

sponsors of the Fourth of July celebration, had set up the big red, white and blue tent with tables and benches for people to sit and eat.

More tables had been set up at the front of the tent. These were just for those entering the contest.

There were two divisions, kids (eighth grade and under); and kids out of eighth grade to adults. Last year, there had been only one division and the kids didn't have a chance to win.

"I thought everyone should have a fair chance," Rodney said.

The youth division started the contest with seven kids looking at a plate full of hot dogs in buns. They were provided water to

drink and dip their buns and dogs in (if they preferred).

With 12 minutes on the clock, they started eating. Seth Hilt, one of two boys, had been a contestant in last year's contest and thought he would try it again. However, when the contest was over, he had lost to Krysteen Jenkins, who ate six dogs.

All of the division's contestants were from St. Francis. Others entering were Tayton Weeter, Hannah Zimbal, Rian Zimbal, Audrey Meyer and Kaitlin Patton.

Adult division

In the adult division, the competition started out fierce but after the first couple of downed dogs, the guys and one gal started to slow down. Some of the competitors had brought their own condiments including catsup and hot sauce.

Little Killy Lampe, Bird City, was the only female to enter the contest but that didn't slow her down as she managed to put down six and one-half dogs.

The winner, Uriah Williams, came from Hays. He managed to put away 12 dogs and another plate of hot dogs was set in front of him. However, enough was enough, and he stopped at 12. John Simmonds, also of Hays, was behind him with 10 and one-half dogs eaten.

The rest of the competitors were Ralph Wolavar, Travis Milne, Terrance Lamb, Troy Meyer, Chase Grice and Tobia Archuleta, all of St. Francis.

Rodney, sponsor of the contest, presented each of the first place winners with a plaque, made by Ross Manufacturing, and a case of hot dogs.



HOT DOG EATING CONTEST found contestants wondering if they had 'bitten off too much.' Top, left to right, adult competitors were John Simmons, Uriah Williams (winner) and Killy Lampe. Bottom, Kaitlin Patton and Krysteen Jenkins (winner).





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