

**March of Dimes benefit
at South Lake Tahoe**

Sno-Ball turns into Ice Ball

**Story by Lisa Knight
Photos by Tom Smedes**

This year's Sno*ball tournament at South Lake Tahoe put on by the March of Dimes turned out to be more of an IceBowl. Regardless, it didn't keep a tremendous amount of teams from attending. The 25th annual tournament contained 95 teams (some from as far away as Minnesota) who raised approximately 55 thousand dollars, making it the best turn-out yet.

In addition to the Sno*ball softball challenge, a Sno*Poke Poker tournament was also held. It alone raised close to five thousand dollars. "This is by far the biggest fundraiser," said Dale Andreason, March of Dimes Director. "It's been growing every year. We didn't expect it to be this big this year. But we were ready for it."

Because of Sno*ball's success, expansion ideas are being proposed. Next year, Andreason would like to hold a Sno*ball tournament in Winnemucca, NV. This tournament will allow co-ed and men's teams to be on one field, eliminating players having to choose which division to play in. It will also reduce, if not dismiss, waiting lists by adding another two fields to the existing six. Other proposed commodities are a live band to enhance the entertaining vacation



*Ice Holes Tyson Wood takes a swing at the 2007 March of Dimes Sno*Ball.*



*Left: Shortstop James Wren of NWP throws to first. Center: Action from the Championship game of the 25th Annual Sno*Ball Tournament. Right: Rebo Truckings' Robert Contras runs back to first.*



part of the tournament, a clubhouse with a bar and restaurant, and a horse-drawn carriage for a pleasant shuttle ride to and from the field.

Andreason hopes to incorporate all of the engaging aspects of this event in Winnemucca. "The Sno*ball tournament has always been the most fun fundraising event," Andreason said. "The people that come up here [to Tahoe] make a fun reunion out of it."

While the heavily iced-over field in Tahoe may have been dangerous, the tournament

made a couple changes for the safety of its players. Sliding and metal cleats were prohibited. But most players were cautious and safe; running extra slow, careful not to slip and only jumping for balls they were positive of catching.

The ice did make for a somewhat comical event. Player's were easily spotted by the array of brightly colored snow-suits, galoshes, fleece shorts and camouflage all-weather pants. No one player could stand up long enough to catch a bouncing ball. And at



Above: NWP celebrates with the tournament bracketing.

one point a pitcher's feet went out from under him causing him to belly-flop while trying to catch a ball thrown from second base. "We're still having a good time though," commented Bobby Simmons from team Nationwide Players (formerly known as the Mountain Dogs) who has been attending the tournament for about ten years.

The Nationwide Players a brotherhood team from San Jose, were undefeated until the "If" Championship game. Facing team Rebo-Trucking for the title, NWP scored four runs in the top of the first inning. They scored another two runs in the third



Above: NWP's Gino Garcia slips on the ice while going for a ball in the outfield. Right: Rebo Trucking outfielder can't quite reach the ball.

inning but it wasn't enough to claim their championship title quite yet.

NWP wouldn't allow being beaten twice. Aggressively playing the final championship game and determined not to let the ice get the best of them, NWP excitedly claimed the title. Though, they admitted the win wasn't expected. "Our last two games were against good guys, but it feels great to win," said Billy

Jolly from NWP. He also added, "This is the most fun tournament of the year that we play. We love coming to Tahoe. We needed more snow, but we'll be back every year."

The Power Weasels captured the coed championship title with Diamond Tribe coming in a close second.

Junk/Woodward Roofing was fortunate to grab third place.

