

Softball's Heart

As one lucky little boy spent a Saturday morning hanging out with his Dad, Matt, and watching his Mom, Shelli, play softball, he had no idea the 20 teams were all there playing the games on his behalf.

Kurtis Ryne Lindsay is a spunky four-year-old boy who had a heart transplant nearly two years ago. Fortunately from the support of friends, family and community members, Kurtis has recovered and is living and playing like any other regular little boy. August 16 and 17 marked the fifth year of the Kurtis Ryne Lindsay benefit softball tournament, held this year at Sparks' new Golden Eagle Regional Park. All proceeds benefited the cost of Kurtis' transplant, the numerous doctor visits to the Ronald McDonald House and the many medications he still needs.

Family friend, Ronda Kindrick started fundraising for Kurtis before he was even born. The Lindsay family was aware of the future heart problem and Kindrick worked with Bully's to start raising money for the medical expenses to be covered. The first tournament started just a few months before Kurtis was born and enabled Matt and Shelli Lindsay to live with Kurtis in the Ronald McDonald house for a few months while he was being treated.

Over the past five years an approximate \$43,000 has been raised. This year's tournament raised \$4,600. Kelli Hanson who is the director of the tournament said a foundation has been set up to continue the fundraising efforts once the Lindsay family no longer needs assistance. The Kurtis Ryne Lindsay Little Heart Foundation will support local children with the same problem, most likely starting next year. "We have a great community that supports the Lindsay family," Hanson said.

Shelli's team KRL (Kurtis' initials) made it to the semi-finals but lost 19-7 to Revelations.

In the championship game, Revelations were up against Courtesy Runners, which was a close game for the first couple of innings. Both teams were 3-3 in the top of the second, but Revelations fell behind by one. In the third inning, Revelations lost their drive and Courtesy Runners out-scored them 4-0. After three more runs in the sixth Courtesy Runners took home the title with a 15-7 win.

In the men's division, top local teams Taylor Made and Carnage were at it again. A scoreless first inning made the second inning intense. Carnage scored three while Taylor Made decided to wait until the third inning to get their offense going, scoring seven. The score was 7-4 going into the fourth and Carnage plated six in the fifth inning to make the score 12-9. The sixth inning was the deal-breaker though when Taylor Made drove in a whopping 12 runs to Carnage's one. Even the three more Carnage scored during the last inning couldn't push them over the top.

Taylor Made took home the title with a 21-16 win.



Left: KRL shortstop makes the play from his knees. Center: Shelli, Kurtis & Matt Lindsay. Right: Chuck Stewart pitching for KRL.