

Air Aces Wide Open Fly [by Night]

What's the big idea behind the **Air Aces Wide Open Fly [by Night]** Guts Frisbee tournament? The big idea was to bring out the rookies and help develop a new generation of young Guts players. And the way we decided to do that was to develop a "hat" tournament where teams are picked at random. Well, not quite randomly. We divided the players into four skill groups: Raw Rookies, Entry Level and First Year players, Skilled Journeymen, and Experts. Then we drew teams based on one player from each group. A quick visual check, a bit of manual re-balancing, and we had eight teams with four or five players each; see Page 2. That was the perfect beginning for a night of Guts.



That's right, a *night* of Guts! With indoor facilities in short supply during the winter months we had to look for cost-effective solutions. We found it in a fantastic soccer arena that offered a reasonable price on off-peak hours. Way off peak: 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM!

That called for a tight schedule. The secret to sticking to it was freezing the field to eight teams. That kept the brackets simple (see Page 3) so there are no byes and no idle time. It also called for nearly continuous play and lots of action for each team involved. With a great turnout (36 players; 18 of them pure rookies and first-year players) we couldn't be happier. So tune in next year for **AAWOF[bN] 2.0!**

A Night of Guts... A Very Looonng Night of Guts

The evening began with team selections. Then each team chose an appropriate (or inappropriate) name and created on-the-spot team jerseys from clean t-shirts and a selection of markers. The result: creative, colorful and mostly "G" rated.

Play began sharply at 10:00 PM with half an hour of practice and drills that encouraged experts and journeymen to coach their rookies and first year players. This was followed by two quick rounds of play to help build teamwork and game skills. The eight teams were seeded into the bracket based on total point differential during Round Robin play.

And then the fun began. Here's what you *didn't* see: There were no all-rookie teams blasted off the field by dominant competitors. There were no arguments. There were no teams standing idly, cooling their heels as they waited for a another team's match to finish.

And here's what you *did* see: Rookies developing at a surprising rate. Experts freely giving tips and insights to newcomers. Sportsmanship. Rookies

diving for tips and sometimes getting a key bobble. And as the night went on the caliber of play and the intensity that developed were truly amazing.

By dawn The Real Stimulus Package team had held on to win out in the winner's bracket. But not before being severely tested by The Guts Show in a battle among undefeated teams. Then it was The Guts Show's turn to be challenged by the Scorched Disc team, the victors of a very close match against Team Awesome in the loser's bracket. Ultimately The Guts Show coming out on top, only to face a finals rematch against The Real Stimulus Package.

As in the best tournaments, the finals went three games with The Guts Show taking the opener. But a victory out of the loser's bracket wasn't to be. The Real Stimulus Package came back to take the second and final games and claimed victory in the first **Air Aces Wide Open Fly [by Night]** Guts Frisbee Tournament.

See Pages 2 and 3 for photos and complete team rosters, plus a detailed close-up of the brackets.



Ron Arndt, Gene Marsh, *Daniel Stybel*, *David Lo*, Bill Watt
John Hopkins, *Ryan Robinson*, *Jason Albert*, *Ryan Scott*, *Paul Schwartz*



Kevin Marsh, Mark Banghart, Ken Salters, *Roger Konkal*, (*Matt McDowell*)
Dan Thornton, *Mike Buckley*, *Sean Campbell*, *John Sotir*, *Nate Furlong*



Dan Leach, *Nick Buckley*, *Adam Terry*, Greg Ferrini
Larry Scott, *Jeff Banghart*, *Bruce Richardson*, *Nick Taylor*



Tom Field, *PJ Samuelson*, Steve Taylor, *Scott Kinsel*
Donnie Klemmer Jr., *Mike Banghart*, *Ben Lapointe*, *Alex Jakstys*

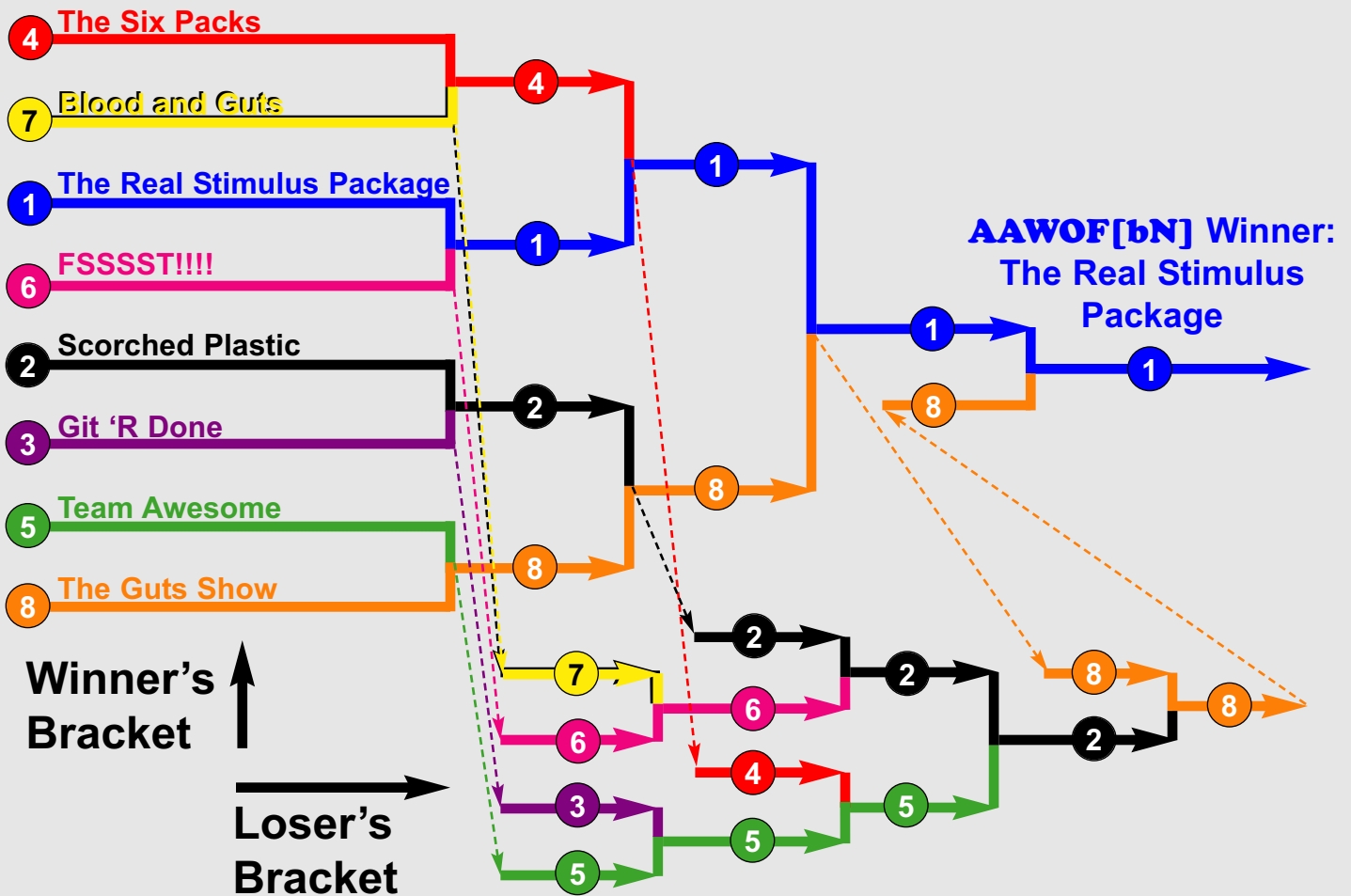


THE REAL STIMULUS PACKAGE



THE GUTS SHOW

Bracketology: The Path To The Finals



The Air Aces Guts Heritage Trophies

It's our pleasure to award the winner's trophy for this year's **AAWOF[bN]** to the **Real Stimulus Package Team** and the **Rookie of the Night** award to first-time Guts player **Nick Taylor**.

The Back Story:
From the mid-1970s to the early 1980s, the Air Aces Team organized several tournaments, many under the heading that was to become the namesake for today's contest: The Air Aces Wide Open Fly (now by Night!).



Way back then we received a special shipment of custom trophies from Dan "Stork" Roddick, at that time the Director of the International Frisbee disc Association (IFA). In those days an Air Ace team-

mate always made custom trophies for our events, so the IFA hardware was packed away in the archives. And there they slumbered until, decades later, we opened the time capsule and brought the trophies into the light, ready for this year's event.

