

Athletes, artists join forces at Emphysema Slims tourney

Christine Deriso

Some expressed themselves on the tennis court and others through artwork, but the resounding sentiment was the same: smoking stinks.

Hundreds gathered at the fourth annual Emphysema Slims Tennis Tournament March 26 at the Newman-Augusta Tennis Center to share their disdain for cigarettes and drugs. The tournament was sponsored by the Medical College of Georgia chapter of Doctors Ought to Care (DOC), a group consisting mostly of MCG medical students devoted to promoting good health in the community.

Van Champion and Bill Dunham won first place. The prize is a night at Augusta's Telfair Inns for each. Buntly Roy and Barbara Kanto won second place; John Barnes and Brian Bowles third; and Joe Edwards and

Linda Hackert fourth. The tournament featured four categories of round robin doubles matches. Some 30 local tennis players competed.

Anti-smoking posters by Richmond County schoolchildren were displayed and judged during the day. Jean Sammis, a senior at Butler High School, won the \$100 grand prize for her poster featuring the slogan, "Smoking Stinks." The poster will be displayed on a billboard.

Games and educational exhibits kept the children entertained during the tournament. The two highlights were the "Dunk the Marlboro Man" dunking booth and a tobacco toss, according to Dr. Rick Richards, associate professor of family medicine at MCG and national president of DOC.

Dr. Richards estimated that about 250 were at the center by midday. "We had a big crowd, and it was just a

gorgeous afternoon," he said. "There's no question that it was a positive contribution to the community."

Rep. Douglas Barnard Jr., D-Ga., echoed the sentiment during his keynote speech at the tournament. "We can be grateful for a community of health care students and professionals who are not just sitting in the race against preventable illness but are actually doing something about it," he said.

"Prevention is a bargain our country cannot afford to pass up. The greatest strides will be made by programs like this one we are enjoying today: an effort generated out of concern for the community by people who know what our health needs are. The name of this organization is Doctors Ought to Care. By their actions, they have demonstrated once again that they really do care," he said.



DOC director David Kahn points to winning poster

STUDENT PULSE
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