

CMU students host Mount Pleasant's first ever Dachshund Derby

The contestants eagerly waited and wagged at the starting line.

"Ready, set, go!" said Chloe Straub, Planning Recreation Programs and Events student at CMU.

The crowd cheered with excitement as the dogs darted down the racetrack.

Straub and four other RPL 430 students put on Mount Pleasant's first Dachshund Derby on Saturday, Nov. 4., in Finch Fieldhouse. The event was created to raise money for the Mount Pleasant Humane Animal Treatment Society.

"In combined monetary and product donations we raised \$1070.80," said Straub. "The goal was \$200 so we far surpassed what we initially wanted."

RPL 430 student groups were instructed to create and execute an event from scratch. The idea for the Dachshund Derby came from a Facebook video that Straub saw on her timeline.

"We thought it was crazy but somehow knew it would work," she said.

Twenty-five dogs were registered to race. A variety of dachshunds participated, including a blind 6-year-old named Buddy. There were five different heats which were determined by age. Scout, a five-year-old dachshund, won first place in the final round.

There was also a dachshund costume contest, won by Stanley, 11, dressed as a duck hunter.

Stanley also placed second in the race. Winners received baskets filled with treats, gift cards and toys.

The event included free food, games and crafts for guests.

"The derby was very cute and fun," said Sydney Michel, attendee. "I hope they do something like this again."

Due to the popularity of the event, the Finch Fieldhouse gym was at capacity. More than 300 people attended. Because it was created for a class, it is unknown if the derby will be annual.

“We hope another group will take it on next year,” said Straub. “If not, we’ve talked about doing it again for the fun of it. The five of us have become pretty close friends throughout our event planning journey.”