

LOCAL BEAT

Global Paintball League Dominates Del Hobbies

Story and Photos by James Dawson



The Global Paintball League visited Del Hobbies in Pedricktown, New Jersey, for each of their six 2005 events. When the season began, the league dabbled in seven-man play, but after two events, ceased seven-man competition to focus on their long-time core formats—three-man and five-man.

This is the tenth season for the GPL, and they are celebrating by upping their NPPL Feeder Series involvement. For the 2006 season, seven-man is back, along with three- and five-man play. The tournament promises to be so big, it will take two days to play.

Event promoters Brian and Cyndi Barno are still proud of their three-man and five-man competition, with the former on Saturday and the latter on Sunday for each of the two-day events. These are the classic formats that have sustained the GPL since its debut at Global Paintball near Allentown, PA, back in '97. Brian



created the series to serve his proshop business. The GPL removes one of the premiere three-man series' on the east coast; last year the two divisions consistently averaged around 90 total teams in attendance.

The most eyebrow-raising moment of the 2005 season came in May when a tornado touched down less than a mile from the event site. Everyone packed into Del Hobbies' rugged proshop—the former officer's club on the now-defunct Sievers-Sandberg US Army Reserve Center—until the storm passed. "We had the whole GPL in our building, hundreds of people," said Tom Del Signore, co-owner of Del Hobbies. The refs spent a few minutes retrieving bunkers that were blown down the street, but the tourney recommenced and finished successfully.

Most players came down from New York or up from Delaware, over

from New Jersey, or surrounding areas—but some teams came from the Midwest and Canada, likely drawn by the promise of around \$36,000 in prizes and cash given out at each event. When the season wrapped, just under a quarter million dollars in cash and prizes were awarded in total.



The GPL wrapped up its season at Del Hobbies on November 19 and 20, 2005, with The Outdoor Channel on hand collecting footage for the "Inside Paintball" television show.
www.GPL05.com

SERIES CHAMPIONS

Three-man, D2

All About Lawns
NYC Revolution
Wealth

Young Gunz

E-Jam Kidz
Armageddon
A+ FBM Factory

Five-man, D1

Ether
The 631
US Army

Five-man, D2

Rush
Cynical Trip Black
GXP