

Splash of Color

By Bailey Theis

Green, blue, red, orange, and yellow chalk exploded on runners as they passed through the two mile run. Shirts, skin, and hair became emboldened with a multitude of colors as Dorchester volleyball girls waited throughout the course to attack the generous donors.

Dorchester for the first time held a color run as a fundraiser for their high school volleyball team. The team recently gained two new coaches, and the coaches were looking for a fun and new way to raise money.

"I had seen other schools have a color run so I thought it would be fun to bring it to Dorchester," Assistant Coach Kelli Kohout said. "We chose to have it on the Saturday of the first week of school. It was also the day the community had the Dorchester Community Foundation's Barbecue Cookoff so it would be a community celebration and lots of people would already be in town."

They sought local businesses to become Corporate Sponsors for \$150. Their names were prominently displayed on the t-shirts which were given to each runner who participated. Adult runners paid \$25 and children paid \$20 for the chance to be powdered in multiple colors. Each runner received bottles of water and goody bags as well.

"I was surprised to see how many signed up. We were truly happy to see so many people come out for the team," Head Coach Bethany Theis said.

The event hosted over sixty people, mostly local townspeople or family members. There was even one family who just loved doing color runs so came all the way from Lincoln just to run in it.

"I was surprised anyone would drive so far just to be in a color run," freshman Brennaly Vazquez said. "However, it was pretty fun."

There were no age limits for the event; there were kids in strollers and grandmas running with their grandchildren. Even though it was advertised as a two mile run, not all people ran; some were jogging and others were walking.

"I run most of the time but when it comes to getting chalk, I walked slowly so I could get a lot of chalk on me," seventh grader Boone Smith said.

There were five different check points on the course. The players were supplied with bottles full of chalk powder, ready to mist on the runners as they made their way through the route.

"We used squeeze bottles so it was easier to hit people with the chalk even though I think the throwers ended up more covered than the runners," sophomore volleyball player Kendall Kasl said. "We were throwing colors all over each other. Hadley Brandt [sophomore] ended up rolling around in it."

The chalk was non-toxic and was safe to use but the only bad part was it could stain clothes. The girls did provide a shirt so it could get stained but if it got into someone's shoes, they weren't so lucky. You would need a couple trips in the washing machine especially if you got a splash with red.

"After my daughter was done with the run, she got into my car and stained the seats," Head Coach Bethany Theis said.

The run made over \$1000 and helped the team gain new pink jerseys for "Pink Out" a volleyball game to bring awareness to breast cancer during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

This was the first time the team had a pink jersey for volleyball. The girls were happy to have a pink jersey instead of just a t-shirt.

"I like the idea of adding something new to our team, and what girl doesn't like pink," junior Briana Tellez said.