

## Color the Quads raises \$70,000 for local charities



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Despite a constant mist, if not outright rain, and what at times was a biting wind that made the temperatures in the middle 50s seem much colder, Brody Grothus pushed his Color the Quads 5K Run to the limit Saturday.

Finishing strong, the 22-year-old Davenport native and University of Iowa wrestler still had fun as he was covered in many colors, and layers, of dyed corn starch that seemed to stick all the more after running through colored foam

— something new this year — at the finish line on Bettendorf's 18th Street.

"This is a great family run," Grothus said, as he waited on his parents and girlfriend and her dad at the finish line. "But I always make it a little bit more and push hard. As a wrestler, I'm always looking for that little bit more that will give me that edge."

Jennifer Scheetz, 44, of Bettendorf, who is the mother of Grothus' girlfriend, had her race number on but was clean as a whistle.

"I got in the line to run, but I ran straight to the beer tent," she said.

Lynsey Engels, one of the organizers of the Color the Quads Run, said the race, now in its third year, keeps getting more fun.

"We had 1,650 runners this year," Engels said. "We've raised \$70,000, most of which will go to three local charities: Hand-in-Hand, Gigi's Playhouse-Quad-Cities and Bethany for Children and Families. Racers can also give suggestions on where they think some of the rest of the money should go."

Runner after runner crossed the finish line caked with colors, which were then turned to a colorful paste by the foam.

Mike Nabb, 55, of Moline, ran the race for the third time with his wife, Paula, who works for the presenting sponsor of the race, Mel Foster Co.

"I just like to run," said Nabb, who added that the chilly weather didn't bother him. "I'm warm now."

Brett Bonner, 44, of Moline, ran his first Color the Quads this year.

"It's a really good race," Bonner said. "It had a couple of challenging hills, but it's a good course. I don't have any idea of my time, but I'm hoping it's in the 24-minute mark."

As for the people tossing the colors, Bonner said, "I didn't know it was going to be that wild, but it was a lot of fun. I'll do it again next year."

At the end of the race, after they all had their water, runners could grab a beer and fill up on pulled pork sandwiches from Hy-Vee.

The running fun wasn't reserved for adults. They started at 4 p.m., but the younger kids had the American Bank & Trust Kids Color Dash, a 400-yard dash and one-mile fun run at 11 a.m. at Bettendorf's Veteran's Memorial Park, Bettendorf. The kids also had their own after-party sponsored by Tyson Fresh Meats.