

paintballIndustry

From the publishers of Paintball Games International & What Paintball Gear?

Well Fed

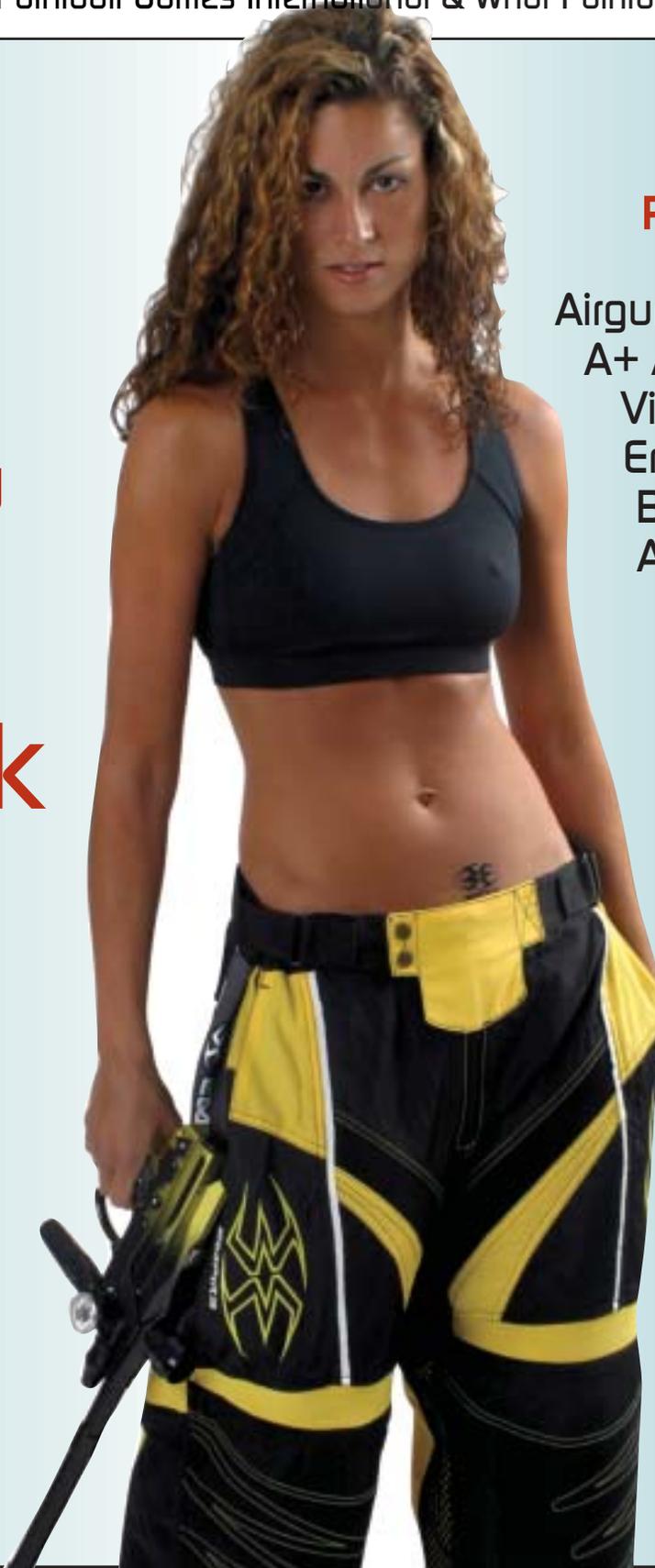
The New Breed
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Media Frenzy

Is Dick Clark
Paintball's
Savior?

Catwalk 2004

New Gear
For The
New Year



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Published Bi-monthly By

Maze Media (2000) Ltd
Castle House
97 High Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1TH
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Millennium Plus Four

As 2003 draws to a close, once again the industry frenzy builds up in the race to launch new product lines for next season. We've already seen a few teasers in the magazines for the likes of Dye's new Proto range, and of course WDP's recently launched Angel 4, but what of all the manufacturers who have been quietly buzzing away in the background, nipping, tucking and tuning up without so much as a whisper of what they're actually working on?

That, of course, is where we come in. We've kept our spies busy on the front line over the last two months, mailing us back regularly with detailed reports of all the new innovations, upgrades and prototypes that have been kept well clear of the public eye up until now. If you're prepared to be surprised - shocked, even - by what is waiting in the wings for the 2004 Paintball season, then read on with caution...



Anthony Jones, Editor
ant@aceville.com

PI Back Issues

Click on the covers to download...



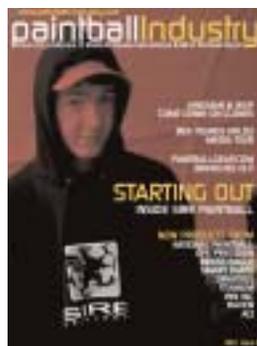
Issue 1



Issue 2



Issue 3



Issue 4



Issue 5



Issue 6

PGI Gets Major Facelift

For years the boys and girls at our sister publication, *Paintball Games International*, have lead the way producing the most cutting edge articles in Paintball, providing their readers with pages upon pages of advice on improving their game from some of the best players in the world. Their gear reviews leave no stone unturned, their event reports never fail to stir up a riot, and the interviews, action shots, gossip columns and forays into that dark realm where Paintball and comedy occasionally meet are guaranteed to leave readers wondering what just hit them. But then we would say that, wouldn't we?

If you don't feel you can trust this propaganda, then we suggest you drop us an email and request a free sample copy so you can see for yourselves.

Anyway, we've strayed from the point a little. We're here to report the good news that *PGI* has now found a visual style to match their verbal chic. After countless minutes reading women's lifestyle magazines on the toilet, the *PGI* design and editorial teams then got together to officially agree that *Vogue* probably wasn't the best direction to go in, although it did feature an excellent Autumn/Winter underwear collection.

Editor Anthony Jones commented: "Our thinking behind the look we went for was twofold. First, the redesign needed to reflect the edgy style of the editorial content. More importantly, though, we looked at the sport's demographics, what other sports Paintballers enjoy and what other mags they tend to read. From our findings we then developed a new style for *PGI* that would not only appeal to the majority of current Paintballers, but would also catch the eye of anyone within Paintball's target demographic and from there hopefully encourage more people to get involved in the sport we love. I hope you like it – we're certainly very happy with the makeover."

For details of advertising opportunities in *PGI* and any of its sister titles, please email robbo@aceville.com or ant@aceville.com.

www.p8ntballer.com



Smart Parts Patents: The Story So Far

Smart Parts have issued three official press releases so far regarding their patents on the electronic marker. They are as follows:

a) "Smart Parts, Inc. and National Paintball Supply, Inc. today announced the signing of a Patent License Agreement giving National Paintball Supply rights to make, sell, offer for sale, and distribute products covered by Smart Parts' electronic Paintball gun patents.

"Smart Parts owns several issued patents and pending patent applications related to the use of electronics in the control and operation of Paintball guns. These include, for instance, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,881,707; 5,967,133; 6,035,843; and 6,474,326 B1."

b) "Smart Parts, Inc. and DYE Precision, Inc. today announced the signing of a Patent License Agreement giving DYE rights to make, sell, offer for sale, and distribute products covered by Smart Parts' electronic paintball gun patents."

c) "Smart Parts, Inc. ("Smart Parts") and Indian Creek Design, Inc. ("ICD") today announced the signing of a Settlement Agreement and Consent Decree which brought to a close their litigation over Smart Parts' electronic paintball gun patents.

ICD has agreed to pay an undisclosed sum of money in settlement of the litigation brought against it by Smart Parts in November 2002 in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon. ICD has further agreed to only sell electronic paintball guns constructed pursuant to a license from Smart Parts.

A partial summary judgment ruling earlier this year found ICD to infringe all but one of the claims of Smart Parts' U.S. Patent No. 6,474,326 B1 through the manufacture and sale of its electronic paintball guns, and denied most of ICD's affirmative defenses and

counterclaims. According to the terms of the Consent Decree, ICD's remaining affirmative defenses and counterclaims, which relate to its allegations of invalidity and unenforceability, are also denied.

Smart Parts owns several issued patents and pending patent applications related to the use of electronics in the control and operation of paintball guns. These include, for instance, U.S. Patent Nos. 6,474,326 B1; 6,035,843; 5,967,133; and 5,881,70.

www.smartparts.com
www.nationalpaintball.com
www.dyeprecision.com
www.icdpaintball.com



National's Intimidator marker



The Matrix, now manufactured by DYE



Indian Creek Designs' Bushmaster marker

Lightening the Load

We have all long since accepted that electronic guns are standard issue in the marker world, even at entry level, but it is only recently that loader manufacturers have caught on to how this alters their market. Previously, agitated and force fed loaders were the reserve of high-level tournament players who needed electronically enhanced hoppers to allow their markers to function correctly. But now that the base rate of fire of even the most humble of apparatus has been raised, it seems that the humble non-agitated loader is no longer up to the task and every player is in need of a slightly more sophisticated feed system. The only problem is that a player who has only spent \$100 on a gun is not going to be all that excited about handing over the same amount for a loader. The gap in the market was a mile wide, but now two manufacturers have stepped in to try and fill the void.

ViewLoader was first to market with the release of the Quantum, an agitated loader at an entry-level price. Ricochet has now followed, repackaging their loader under the new name of Rhino and placing it at a lower price.

The fundamental difference between the new, lower priced, agitated loaders and their more expen-

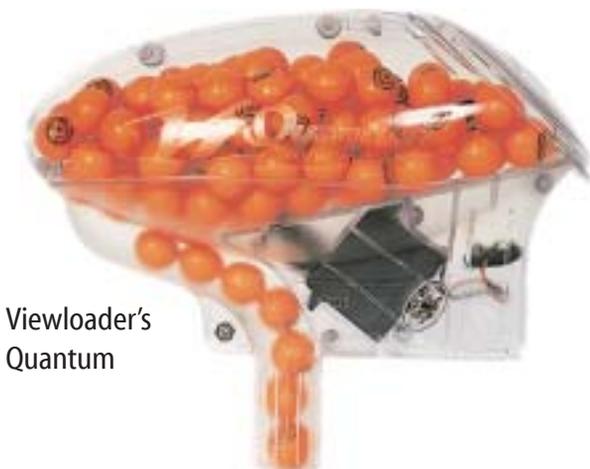
sive counterparts is that no sensors have been included to determine when the mechanism needs to be activated in order to drive more balls into the breach. The impellers themselves are also slightly less sophisticated, providing less comprehensive agitation of the balls inside the hopper. These are not direct criticisms, however. While the modifications obviously reduce performance, they have the same effect on price. Removing the sensors is the main reason for the substantial drop in price, since this is both the most technical and fragile piece of equipment on the more upscale versions.

Without sensors, the only way to solve the problem of when the impeller should spin is to have it spinning all the time. This does mean that the player is subject to a bit of an ear bashing, and that batteries can't be expected to last quite as long, but all of these problems have to bow down to the overall reduction in price.

Both the Rhino and the Quantum come in at about a quarter of the price of the top spec loaders, whilst still boasting feed rates of up to eight balls per second. This level of performance is perfectly pitched at the recreational player who is unlikely to want to shoot any faster in fear of crippling paint bills.

Ricochet
www.ricochet2k.com
623 875 7603

ViewLoader
www.viewloader.com
877 877 4263



Viewloader's
Quantum



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A Bad Year For Brass Eagle?

On August 5 Brass Eagle Inc announced reported their results for the second quarter ending June 30, 2003, which were, in a word, disappointing. We know this may be old news to some of you, but unfortunately the story was released shortly after the last issue of *Pi* went to press. So for those of you who haven't already seen them, here are Brass Eagle's 'latest' figures.

Reported net sales for the second quarter decreased 7.9% to \$24.6 million versus \$26.7 million for the same period last year. For the three months ended June 30, 2003 the Company reported a profit of \$632,000 or \$0.08 per diluted share, compared to a profit of \$2.37 million or \$0.31 per diluted share for the corresponding period in 2002. This marks a huge decrease and is no doubt a worry for shareholders.

For the first half of the year, net sales decreased 18.8% to \$38.0 million from \$46.8 million for the same period in 2002. Net income for the first half of the year decreased to \$406,000 or \$0.05 per diluted share from \$3.46 million or \$0.46 per diluted share for the same period in 2002.

Spend, spend, spend...

Brass Eagle identified continued tight inventory controls at major retailers as a key reason for the second

quarter income shortfall. In addition, the company incurred increased expenses of approximately \$500,000 related to new computer software implementation.

Brass Eagle told *Pi* that they expect fiscal year 2003 sales to range from \$98 million to \$105 million. They also expect fiscal 2003 diluted earnings per share of approximately \$1.00 after the above mentioned expenses.

Lynn Scott, Brass Eagle President and CEO commented to *Pi*: "The soft retail environment, which prompted reductions in major retailers' inventories, caused lower than expected first quarter sales results. Although second quarter income was below our internal expectations, we are very encouraged by the strong demand for our products at retail."

"We continue to believe the basic business of Brass Eagle is sound and we remain the leader in a growing market with strong demographic trends at our back. We will continue to focus on growing our core business while simultaneously looking to diversify into complementary markets."

Brass Eagle is a dominant supplier of products for Paintball and markets its products under the Brass Eagle, Viewloader, and JT USA brands.

www.brasseagle.com
877 877 4263



Batteries Not Included

Back in the days before the E-Blade turned the Cocker world on its head, a company called Paint Guns International were tinkering around with their own version of the electronic Cocker-style marker called the Firestorm.

Continuing their work on electrifying the mechanical man's marker they have now produced another rapid fire Cocker-type machine. Dubbed the Osiris, the new electronic gun



has no sear, lug or cocking rod. In the pre-match hype, *Pgi* has boasted to us that their marker can shoot at 20BPS without chopping balls. This is a bold claim so rather than take their word for it, we'll be asking for a demo at the World Cup next month.

www.pgipaintguns.com
714 988 7085

Worr Hits Europe!

Creators of the Autococker, WGP, have just revealed to *Pi* an agreement in principle for the exclusive distribution of their complete line of products for the European market.

Worr Game Products has chosen OPM Paintball Supplies, located in Duesseldorf, Germany, to accomplish this goal. President and CEO of Worr Game Products Bud Orr told *Pi*: "This is going to be a great opportunity for WGP to service all of Europe through a company that has served the Paintball community for many years".

An excited Stephan Wildemann, President of OPM, commented: "This is a big step for the European



Paintball industry, to become associated with such an outstanding company and be their representative in Europe. Worr Game Products is the perfect company because they have stood for quality products and full customer service ever since Paintball began."

www.worr.com

www.paintballshop.de

Very Bad Things

Proving that they're just as comfortable catering to the rigorous demands of the tournament player as the budget conscious entry-level customer, PMI's Evil offshoot continues to grow in stature.

Many new products have been prepared in time to debut at the Florida World Cup. These will include a new one-piece barrel called the Driver and a new style tip for the existing Pipe. New upgrades for the popular Intimidator will also be on display: These will include a respirator, ASA and punch (replaces the ram and hammer), all modifications that Evil gun tech, Aaron Stephens, tells *Pi* will greatly increase the performance of the gun.

There have been whispers of other products too. The words Minion and Scion came up – although no information other than this was forthcoming. Earlier this year *Pi* got wind of reports that the Evil Omen would be followed up by two more high-end markers. It's our guess that the Minion and Scion could very well be the new guns.

www.buypmi.com 800 334 0502



Evil's new gear line - packing a punch

World's First Digital Bible?

What Paintball Gear? 2004, The original and best Paintball gear bible is now in its third great year!

The 196-page full-color glossy annual magazine will be distributed through Barnes & Nobel, P8ntballer.com, specialist Paintball stores and at major events throughout the 2004 season, and will be backed up by a combined print and online marketing campaign throughout 2004.

But the best news is yet to come! This year *WPG?* will also be available as a CD-ROM with live hyperlinks direct to *your* website, on sale at P8ntballer.com as well as cover mounted free with *PGI Magazine!* If you book you ad now you will receive the following great benefits: 12 months of exposure for your products, guaranteed editorial coverage, and hyperlinks direct to your website from *WPG? Digital*.

Preview...

Meet Your Marker

Whether you've got \$100 to spend or \$2,000, we've got the Paintgun for YOU! 57 Models Reviewed and Rated Inside

.....

Down the Tube

The World's Greatest Two-Piece Barrel Kits

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Nitro Systems & Loaders Put Through Their Paces

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VForce Online

VForce's all-new website is now live at www.vforcepaintball.com, featuring all the latest mod cons including air conditioning, heated front seats and alloy wheels. It also includes a hi-res image section that allows you to enlarge pictures for closer inspection, mouse-over features that let you instantly view every model in every color, a 'how to' section to handle FAQ's, a new gallery that they assure us will be updated regularly from big games, scenarios and tournaments.

But not content with just throwing a new website into the ether, VForce have decided to launch a new low-profile goggle system, the PROfiler, which will make its world debut at the 2003 World Cup at Disney's Wide World of Sports.

www.vforcepaintball.com



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PanAm Circuit To Specialize

Promoters of the hugely popular and heavily industry-supported PanAm Circuit have just revealed they are to be making sweeping changes to their tournament format for the 2004 season. Over the previous years the PanAm has run 3-Man events, 5-Man events, 7-Man events and 10-Man events, along with a stock class and the ever-popular Young Guns 3-Man competition. It has also been a limited paint tournament since its inception. But that's all over now.

For the 2004 season the PanAm is making a dramatic shift in its direction. With one fell swoop the 3-Man, 5-Man and stock class divisions have been eliminated. Also erased from the series is the controversial limited paint format which had set it apart from all other Paintball circuits.

When challenged about these new changes, pro-

moter Dan Bonebrake told *Pi*: "We listen to our customers and this year's group of tournament players have responded to the question of limited v unlimited paint by overwhelmingly supporting the move to unlimited paint. They've also told us that they prefer a NPPL style 7-Man format, and after careful thought and deliberation we've decided to shift in that direction. With Europe and the NPPL also embracing the 7-Man format, we can clearly see the benefits of joining the migration."

So in 2004 the PanAm will be presenting five events that will utilize a 7-Man unlimited paint format. Dan concluded by saying, "We have more circuit surprises in store, so stay tuned."

www.panamcircuit.com
503 370 8749

In Production

Paintball video with a difference is due to hit the streets any time now, thanks to a small underground company called Der Der Productions. There aren't many big names in it, but what it lacks in Pro faces, it more than makes up for in Pro attitude. Loads of superb action footage, people whining after they get hit and lots more grit from the grinder. Stay tuned

to upcoming issues of *PGI* for more news as it breaks.

In addition, Pat Maker of groundbreaking Paintball movies *Push* and *Sunday Drivers*, has started out a new production company called Monkey-With-a-Gun productions. He's got a few new ideas for movies and is just about to get started working on them. Once again, keep an eye on our sister publication, *PGI*, for more.



A Grade

Do your Paintball Field's home team have skills that make a mockery of the laws of physics? Then perhaps they deserve their very own signature series marker. If you think so, then knock up a design and send it over to A+ Anodizing. They can take any drawing and anodize a replica on any marker.

www.aplusanodizing.com
www.aplusp8ntball.com
215 368 7337

Battle it Out

The new trend for 2004 is the external trigger adjuster:

Two products came out with this techno-friendly innovation this month. One was the Angel 4 and the other is the Battle Axe trigger frame from AIM Paintball. The idea is simple, an external dial that allows players to quickly and easily adjust the length of their trigger pull without taking the frame apart. This is a better system for two reasons: Firstly, because it takes up less time and effort, and secondly, because not every player has the confidence to take their gun apart and attack it with a screwdriver.

The Battle Axe is a hinge frame - a design well



known for its smooth trigger pull - and is said to be compatible with any Autococker from 2000 onwards. It comes complete with one of AIM's own sticky grips, which provides a comfortable handhold and improved control over the marker. The back of the frame has been milled, and while the design is generic enough to suit any Cocker, it has been cut specifically to match AIM's own Eagle and Crow bodies. Battle Axes are available in black, red and blue and come complete with their own screw sets. AIM Paintball

www.aimpaintball.com

626 589 3218

Five Star

ANS Xtreme is best known for the GX, the company's own take on the Cocker. This has been their sole enterprise for quite some time, but now they have decided to branch out into the barrel market.

Making use of their well-honed machining talents, they have come up with the S5, a barrel kit with five back sections and one 14" tip. Back sections come in the following bore sizes: .684 / .687 / .689 / .691 / .694

www.ansusergroup.com
805 527 5661



NPPL Clamps Down On Staining Paint

With the constant drive to use bigger and better venues for Paintball tournaments, the NPPL has been forced to come down heavily on the use of any paintballs that have potential staining properties. Paint manufacturers have been made aware and new tests carried out in accordance with the recently implemented rule change.

The rule change was put in place after the NPPL Rules Committee met on Thursday, September 4 to discuss the important matter of staining paint. It is vital that each team, player and paint company is aware of this change, as it

will be implemented in the Commander's Cup this November. Staining paintballs has become a big issue over the past year, as promoters strive to provide better venues and services for the players.

In attempts to cut down on the staining paintballs the rules committee came up with the following criteria. The new rule reads as follows:



7.11 Prohibited equipment includes listening devices, communication devices and any form of electronic surveillance device, incendiary devices, smoke producing devices, red paintballs, paintballs which are toxic or not biodegradable or indelible or paintballs which have a shell, fill or both altered or augmented in any way. Teams found using forbidden paintballs or carrying forbidden

paintballs in their pods or hoppers or with an open box of such paintballs will have to pay a fine of \$500.00 USD.

The team will also be ejected from the tournament and all points taken away from that round of play. Paintballs will be tested in accordance to the following testing criteria Exhibit A...

For details of the NPPL Paintball Stain Testing procedure (Exhibit A), please contact the NPPL on 714 536 9050 or visit:

www.nppl.tv

Potting Up

ViewLoader, well-known for launching a new product every five minutes, recently went mad and spent all their 2003 R&D budget on relaunching the humble pod...

A spokesperson for the company told Pi: "We asked the top teams what they would to see in a tube and we gave it to them. The all-new VL Pro Attitube

features a tri-tab lid opening system for quick and easy loading. This allows the tube to only open when you want it to open. It also uses safety tabs to prevent accidental opening. VL Pro Attitubes are also stackable for easy retrieval after the game is over and for easy storage.

www.viewloader.com
877 877 4263

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Evolve



Evolve Top Hat



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Evolve Backwall set

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Or contact your local dealer



Focus On TV

We all want to reap the benefits of Paintball making it onto the small screen, right? Well, maybe you should all be buying the team at Focused TV Productions a large drink, because they've just revealed to *Pi* that three major Paintball events will be airing on national television in 2003 and 2004.

Through their efforts last year, Focused TV successfully produced and packaged the 2002 PSP World Cup of Paintball for a national television audience. And based on that success, they have obtained exclusive television and home video rights to William Shatner's SPPLAT Attack II and PSP's 2003 5- and 10-Man World Cup tournaments. These events will be produced as three one-hour specials for national television and packaged as exclusive home videos and DVD's.

Multiple airings of the events are scheduled for November, December and January on OLN, a major national outdoor sports and adventure network (www.olntv.com). OLN is seen nationally in over 60 mil-

lion households and is owned by The Comcast Corporation, one of the largest cable companies in the US.

For more information and available television sponsorships packages, contact Mike McKown at:

www.focused.tv
mike@focused.tv
813 908 5800



Out with a Bang

Making good use of pyrotechnics at a rec-ball site is a surefire way to bring the customers in. Having explosions rattle your eardrums whilst clouds of smoke strafe through the trees can enhance the experience of a rental day ten-fold.

Site owners in the UK interested in adding some excitement to their weekends might want to check out a company called Enola Gaye.



Despite the somewhat ominous name, Enola package their grenades, smoke bombs and flash bangs in bright casings with a pop art design theme. A small

element of realism has been added, as the paint grenades have been given the classic green pineapple look. For now, Enola Gaye is concentrating on the UK market but they do have plans to move into Europe and eventually America.

www.enolagaye.com

Braking New Ground

Dan Bonebrake's primary enterprise is the highly successful Pan Am series. But ever since 1996 he has been indulging in another secret passion – airsmithing. Seven years ago Dan, like many other people, started out doing his first custom work on the Cocker. Then, whilst playing for Avalanche, he progressed to finding new ways to modify the Angel. For the next few years Dan worked on producing a small number of special edition guns for a few valued customers. It was a simple operation; his work team included just a couple of friends who were talented airsmiths.

Around four years ago things began to take off for Bonebrake, who found that increase in demand allowed him to employ more staff, but it has been over the last six months that things have really taken off. During this time the company released its own version of the Bushmaster whilst working hard on increasing their public profile. A new website has given the company a greater Internet presence and plans for a greatly extended product range should see Bonebrake Airsmithing continue to grow rapidly

throughout 2004.

Currently, Dan is working with AKA owner Aaron K Alexander on producing a custom Viking. Keen to have AKA involved as much as possible in the manufacturing of the gun, Dan has consulted Aaron to get his input on how the marker should be best modified. Once Bonebrake has finalized his



design, he will then pass on the responsibility of manufacturing the marker to AKA – after which he will apply the finishing touches.

Distributing the workload in this fashion, Dan is able to greatly increase his productivity whilst still maintaining the high standards of quality control usually

restricted to the very smallest customhouses. The Bonebrake Viking is scheduled for release early next year, when Dan also plans to launch an advertising campaign.

www.danbonebrake.com
503 370 8749

Mid-Priced Power

Where do your customers go once you've outgrown your first gun? The simple answer is to the bank to cry and dribble upon the manager's desk whilst begging him for a loan. Going from paying \$200 for a gun to splashing out \$1200 is enough to reduce anybody to a state of hysterics. The problem is the stepping-stones that line the middle ground are few and far between. The good news is retailers can now add another stop-off point to your list.

Chiple Machine revealed their latest project to *Pi* this month, the Series 5 marker. The new gun will be a cut above most entry-level models but won't come at a price that'll make new players eyes water. Chiple tell us that the Series 5 will be a solid performer with no frills. And to keep your customers coming back, they have made the gun so it's easily upgradeable. This means players can invest slowly in the Series 5 as their game improves, changing it from a mid range marker into a tourney-grade paint chucker.

As well as developing the new gun, Chiple have been reworking their other marker, the J2. They just have to put together the finishing touches and they'll be packing one off for *PGL* to review as soon as it's done.

www.chipleymachine.com
530 365 7230



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apiper@buypmieurope.com

Prepare For Armageddon!

Air America has just released a seriously updated version of their Armageddon air system for 2004.

Designed and manufactured by John Sosta and John Bonich, the new Armageddon system is one of the most advanced regs out there. Incorporating an in-built on/off and

a revolution-ary

Downstream Bleed system, the

Armageddon not only turns off the air supply to a marker, but will also vent any residual low-pressure air stored in the hose and marker. This also allows the user to easily remove the cylinder from the marker without dumping the air in the cylinder.

As with the original Armageddon, the ARM valve will allow the user to easily change to a different size cylinder, and additional sleeves will allow the user to use one cylinder with several different markers. Extra ARM valves and sleeves are available.

The 04 Armageddon is a single stage regulator; now completely micro precision machined in high strength, lightweight, tempered alloy aluminum, designed to accept input working pressures up to 4500psi. With a 200-1000psi output pressure range, the

reg is totally compatible with virtually all of the markers currently used in Paintball. We are told it will deliver tournament-level performance, with possibly the highest flow rate currently available.

The system is fitted with high and low side pressure safeties, recessed input and output precision

mini-gauges and the Air America

Quick Fill Adaptor, all of

which are

designed to

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Seals" in the 1/8"

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Europe:

www.airamerica-uk.com

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The Doctor Will See You Now...

I&I Sports, one of the world's largest Paintball retailers, have just revealed the identities of their new celebrity staff members - Jerry "The Cocker Doctor" Montgomery and his wife Linda! Well, they're celebs in the Paintball world, anyway...

Jerry and Linda bring a long history of great customer service and experience with them to the I&I team, and they will be helping out in I&I's Carson store location before moving on to a soon-to-be-announced new store location. Jerry specializes in repairs and modifications for, you guessed it, Autocockers, but has the experience and skills to repair just about any marker, including Angels.

Since 1984, I&I Sports has been supplying the

Paintball world with the latest products and quality service, all at competitive prices. They have grown into an operation with 13 retail locations and more on the way. Through their chain of company stores and independent Affiliates, they are working to bring you 'hands-on' shopping and 'I&I Customer Service' at discount prices! Check out www.iisports.com for an I&I Sports store or Affiliate near you. In addition, most locations are now Authorized Repair and Warranty Service Centers for most major manufacturers including Tippmann, Piranha, Spyder, Autococker, Brass Eagle and more.

www.iisports.com

310 715 6800



Round the Twist

Typically, the only companies with the resources to produce a complete range of Paintball gear are the industry giants: PMI, Kingman, National etc. Those businesses with more limited resources are usually restricted to specializing in one area. With this in mind, Twisted Paintball can be seen as a bit of an anomaly.

A relatively new company, Twisted Paintball has hit the market with a surprisingly comprehensive range. Their catalogue includes a full range of apparel, packs, accessories for nearly all the major guns, and most significantly, two markers – the

Dragon Bonez
and Dragon

Slayer.

Even more surprising is that these are both budget markers, which means that Twisted have willingly gone head to head with the most daunting competition Paintball has to offer, National, PMI and Kingman.

Surprisingly, they don't seem to be suffering as a result and the company has announced plans to further expand its product line. 2004 will see Twisted add a barrel system to their arsenal - the only product that is currently missing. There are also signs that their markers are doing well in spite of the competition, as two more guns have been promised for next year. The Twisted website even hints that a casual clothing line may emerge. All this is good news for the industry, as it's a strong indication that demand is still on the rise.

Here's a quick look at some of Twisted's main products for anyone thinking about getting some new items to stock in their store.

Twisted Pants

Tough Corduroy/Nylon pants with inner lining
Padded hip and tailbone
Double stitched knee and crotch panels
Spandex inner thigh panel for air flow and flexibility
Front and back pockets with squeegee pockets

Dragon Bonez

Electronic trigger frame
Multi-mode adjustable LCD
Firing modes: semi, full, and nitro
Adjustable rate of fire - up to 20 BPS
LPR
Two-Piece barrel
Field strippable
Gas-thru grip
Aluminum ball detent

Dragon Slayer

Electronic trigger frame
Semi only
Set for 12 BPS
Gas-thru grip
Rear cocking bolt
Field strippable
Volumizer
Aluminum ball detent
Mini drop w/ASA
Beaver tail

Selection of Twisted
Accessories for the Angel,
Intimidator, Matrix, Spyder
and Autococker.

www.twistedpb.com
209 524 9544



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Jerseys Pants Gloves Bags



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Dick Clark and Reuters Discover Paintball



Reuters news agency recently reported that world-famous TV producer Dick Clark is set to bring Paintball to the masses in two separate projects.

The news item starts with what most of the Paintball world already knows - that the NXL, soon to be PLP, is preparing to go mainstream:

"Dick Clark Prods. has acquired the broadcast rights to Professional League Paintball, the first organized professional league in paintball, consisting of

eight teams from such major cities as New York, Los Angeles and Chicago."

However, what isn't common knowledge is the fact that Clark is preparing a second show, which Reuters claim is, "...a celebrity paintball-themed reality show."

This should come as a relief to many, as some commentators were predicting that Clark may try to marry the NXL to a reality TV format, yet this release suggests that the two projects are separate entities and the PLP will be a genuine sporting concern. Read the full release at

<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle....storyID=3424616>

Fully Charged

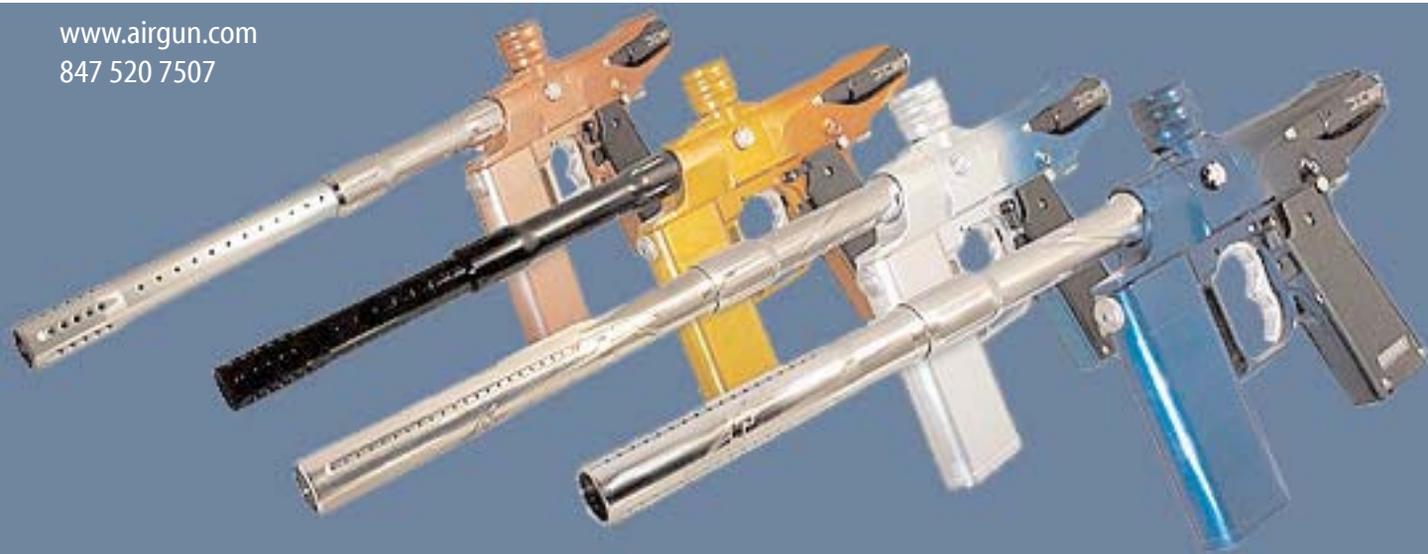
Airgun Designs are continuing the rejuvenation of the Automag this month with yet another new development.

Following the release of the Level 10 valve and ULE (ultra-light engineering) series, AGD have now come up with the X-Valve.

The X-Valve is the second generation ReTro Valve. Its regulator is said to recharge in less than .04 seconds. AGD claim that the efficiency of this recharge rate allows the X-Valve to fire 26+ times a second without shoot-down. Not only does the regulator have an impressive recharge rate, but it also maintains a consistent pressure inside the valve making for great shot-to-shot consistency.



www.airgun.com
847 520 7507



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CATWALK 2004

Top Paintball companies unveil their apparel lines for next year's Paintball tournament season

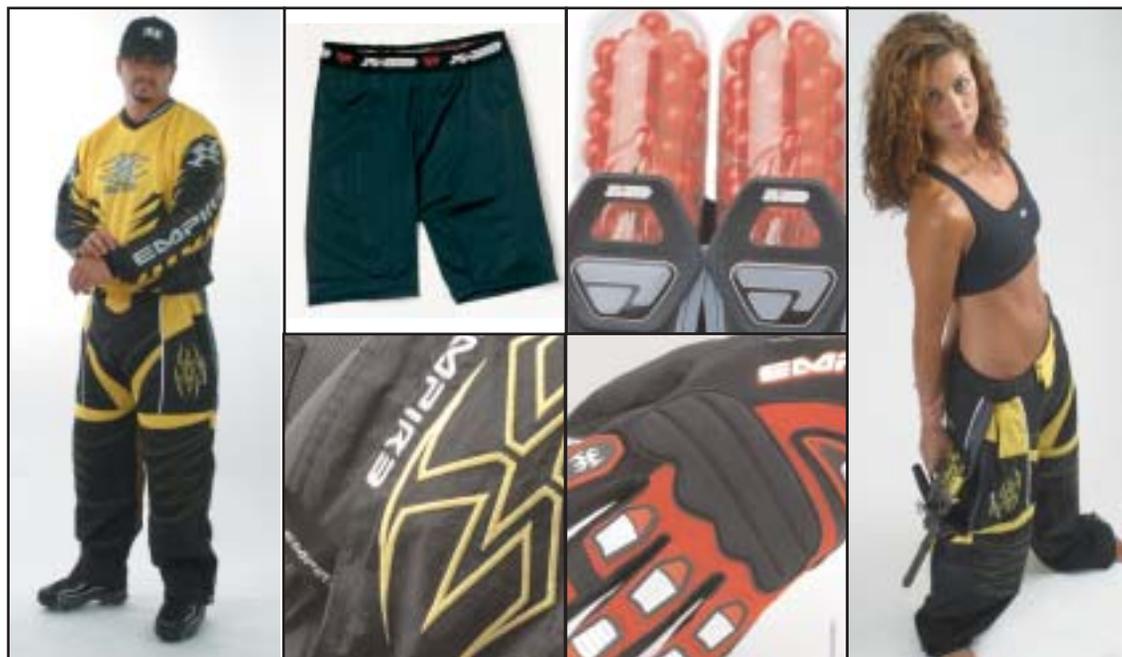
Each year, Paintball companies battle it out to see who can get the most teams to equip themselves with their brand of field apparel. It's a hotly fought contest - not least because new contenders are constantly entering the arena. But, over recent years, two front-runners have managed to clearly distance themselves from the pack, namely Dye and JT. Significantly, these two companies aren't market leaders because they offer lower prices than everybody else, but because they project the right image. Paintball is no different to any other industry when it comes to fashion, where price is secondary to style.

Both Dye and JT have managed to keep themselves firmly lodged in players' minds through a combi-

nation of heavy sponsorship of successful tournament teams and extensive advertising campaigns in magazines. This is not to take anything away from the product lines themselves, as both companies have taken great pains to consistently update their products, ensuring that their style remains en vogue.

However, 2004 will see Paintball's style gurus pitted against two new would-be tailors who will by no means be easily dismissed. The first of these companies is WDP - famous manufacturers of the Angel Paintball marker. The second is none other than the colossal National Paintball Supply, who will be launching their new products under the Empire name (National's high-end subdivision). Perhaps the most threatening of the pair is WDP, style war veterans of the gun market whose name carries a great deal of sway in the image stakes. National also makes a good case, however, not only because of its size, but also because sponsored team and NXL crowd pleasers Miami Effect will be making sure the new gear is well in the public eye.

The release dates for all this finery will be the PSP World Cup for National, and the NPPL Commander's Cup for WDP. WDP and National will also be pitting their wears against the redesigned Dye and JT lines. Competition from the Dye corner will be formidable this year, too, since their main line of apparel will be accompanied by an entirely new supporting range. The



new gear will go by the name of Proto, which will be replacing Dye's long serving Xcel brand. It would be fair to say that Dye have been comfortable leaders in the apparel stakes this year, and the confidence displayed in striking out with a second clothing line reflects this success. However, it remains to be seen whether Dye will be able to keep its crown next year in the face of new competition.

Here's a look at what's going to be available as of World Cup 2003:

Empire

The most significant addition to Empire's playing kit will be the new pants. Developed by

National employee and Pro superstar Travis Lemanski, they are constructed from a lightweight material, which marks a departure from some of the existing bulkier designs. Usually, Paintball pants are required

to be fairly industrial because of the abuse they have to sustain. The Empire pants can afford to be lighter though, since they are made from a six-way stretch fabric. This helps them absorb twisting and tearing impacts without splitting.

It's possible that the jerseys currently available from Empire will be modified for 2004, but we haven't heard anything definite on the subject yet. As they are, apart from bearing Empire's distinctive logo, the current jerseys follow the standard Paintball template.

Empire's Handz gloves go down a similar route to the lightweight pants. They are less cumbersome than traditional designs and the ridged rubber plating usually attached to the back of Paintball gloves is noticeably absent. Players are becoming less concerned with over-egging protective features in favor of gear that won't inhibit their movements. National has picked up on this trend, ensuring that their new apparel will certainly appeal, especially to the new breed of athletic Paintballers.

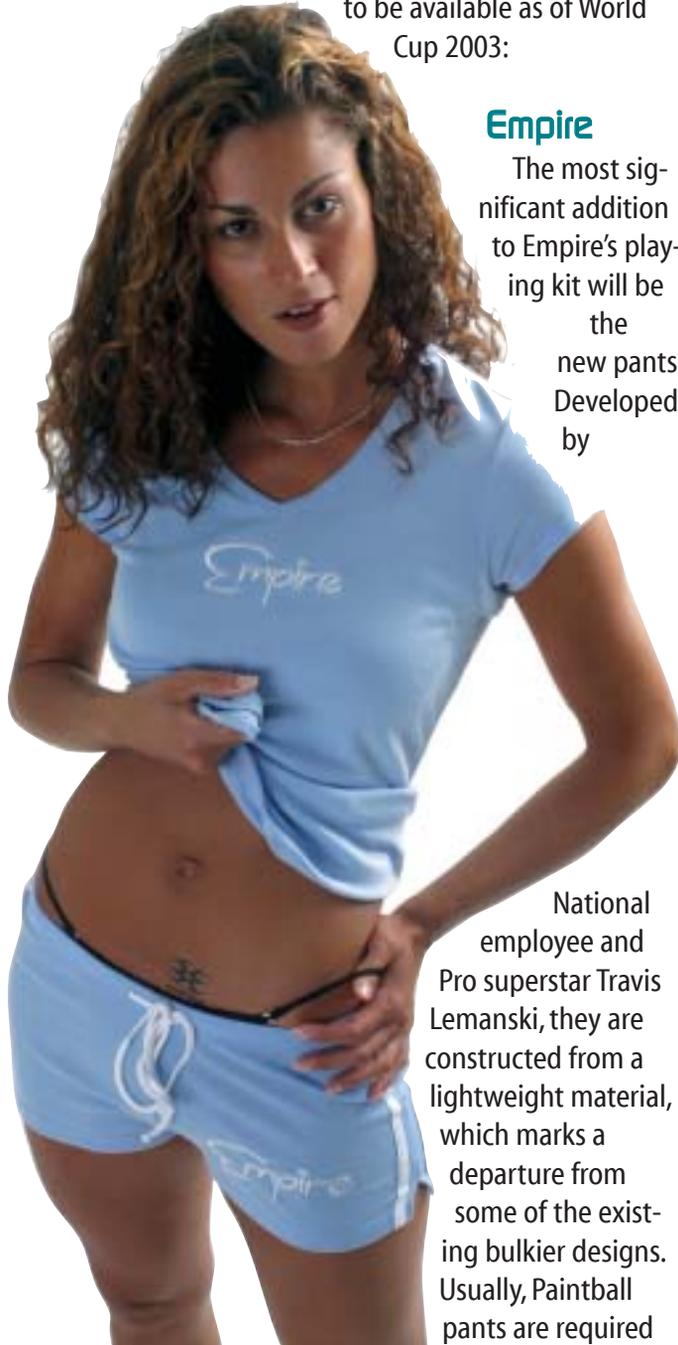
www.nationalpaintball.com
800 346 5615

WDP

The spec sheet that WDP sent us for their Angel Technical Apparel would take up more space than we have in this publication. So rather than tell you everything right down to what type of stitching was used to sew on the fly buttons, we'll just pick out the highlights.

We first saw prototypes of the new pants at the Millennium event in Toulouse. Since then they have been refined into an impressive finished product. At first glance one of the most visually striking differences are the twisted seams. These are intended to body-map the trouser legs to the individual player, helping the pant to move with the player instead of just hanging off them.

Lining the pants is an airtech mesh - a cool material with excellent wicking properties. This should help prevent players from overheating or becoming uncomfortable. To help cut down on weight, the upper part of the pant is made from a low-bulk, rip-stop honeycomb



the pant is made from a low-bulk, rip-stop honeycomb fabric. While this is a tough material, it's still not quite durable enough for the lower legs where maximum strength ballistic nylon has been used.

Many tournament players now like to take to the field with one or two pots placed in their pockets for quick and easy access after the game start. With this in mind, WDP have equipped their pants with a pot holder on each leg. Referencing ever decreasing game times, WDP are even as bold as to suggest that this modification might one day do away with the need for a battle pack altogether.

As with the pants, the Angel gloves feature a myriad of technical features. Much emphasis has been placed on venting. Materials have been chosen for their breathability as well as their durability. A micro-mesh fabric has been used between the fingers instead of Lycra and a loose weave extends across the back to encourage airflow.

Tactility is always one of the most important factors where gloves are concerned. So, to enable players to get a good feel for their marker - even when wearing gloves - WDP has used carbon fiber impregnated leather. This is a material favored by Indy Car drivers and professional golfers. At .6mm thick, you might expect it to be unsuitable for the rigors of Paintball, but WDP claim that as well as being the closest thing to a second skin, it is amazingly resilient.

Angel jerseys were still in development at time of writing, so we will have to wait until the Commander's Cup in Miami before we can give you the full story.

Even though WDP has confessed that the new apparel will be expensive, it is unlikely that this will seriously affect sales and players are sure to be attracted by the high volume of features and up-to-date styling.

www.wdp-paintball.com
+44 (0)121 328 2228

Proto

Dye is well known for closely guarding its secrets,

and with good reason when you consider they have been responsible for some of the most significant developments in apparel to date. As a result we don't, as yet, have any more detailed information on the Proto range, other than these pics, so Proto will remain a well-kept secret until all the details are unveiled at the World Cup in Florida this October.

www.protopaintball.com
858 536 5183

