

paintballIndustry

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

TV Is Here!

The NPPL Strikes Six-Show Deal With Fox Sports Network

Work IS Play

How a Factory Team Could Help Your Business

Brass Eagle Sold!

\$78m Buys Paintball's Most Expensive Product

Matrix: Evolution

Dye Steals The Show With the DM4

PLUS

Nelson's New Paint
I&I's New Store
Empire Intimidator
Worr's Nightkast
The \$289 Barrel
Spyder Fenix
Hi-Tech Field Armor
AND MUCH MORE!



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Well Equipped

We're currently putting the finishing touches on one of our sister titles, the annual gear bible that is *What Paintball Gear?*. But the trouble is, the faster we test, review and report on every new product out, the faster people just keep on launching them without telling a soul. It's making our job very difficult, so please slow down some. The latest company to throw the wrench at us in this manner is Dye, with their DM4 super-Matrix, launched only a few weeks ago at the World Cup in Orlando, Florida. But this time we were ready for them. Armed only with a camera bow-tie and a hidden mic, we made it our mission to get the full SP on what was possibly the most hotly anticipated product launch of the year. And our efforts were well rewarded, as you will see inside...

Anthony Jones, Editor
ant@aceville.com



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Brass Eagle Reaches New Heights!

On October 22, Brass Eagle entered into an agreement to merge the company with K2 Inc of Carlsbad, California in an all-stock transaction. The agreement contemplates an exchange offer of K2 common shares for common shares of Brass Eagle followed by a merger. Brass Eagle shareholders will receive 0.6036 shares of K2 common stock for each share of Brass Eagle common stock. The Board of Directors of Brass Eagle recommends that shareholders accept the offer, and tender their shares to K2. The merger may be finalized as soon as December, 2003.

Lynn Scott, Brass Eagle President and CEO, stated: "We are very enthused about the future, and believe that the merger with K2 presents significant opportunities for the Company. K2's resources in marketing and brand building, manufacturing, and product development will help Brass Eagle achieve the long term goal of becoming a diversified action sports company, while remaining the number one supplier of Paintball products to the market place."

Brass Eagle also reported that net sales for the third quarter increased 12.3% to \$24.6 million versus \$21.9 million for the same period last year. Net income for the three months ended September 30, 2003 was \$1.3 million compared to \$1.5 million for the corresponding period in 2002. Earnings per diluted share were \$0.18 compared to \$0.21 in 2002.

For the first nine months of the year, net sales decreased 8.7% to \$62.7 million from \$68.7

million for the same period in 2002. Net income for the first nine months of the year was \$1.7 million compared to \$5.0 million last year. Diluted earnings per share decreased 65.7 % this year to \$0.23 from \$0.67 for the first nine months of 2002.

www.brasseagle.com

www.k2inc.net



Paintball isn't the only sport covered by K2

Dye Launches the DM4!

The Matrix has always been a contender, but so far it's been content to peer in from the wings while other guns take center stage – mainly, we suspect, for cosmetic reasons. So when news hit that Dye had bought the rights to Generation E's Matrix, we had little doubt that the fortunes for this Plain Jane Superbrain marker were about to change

On first glance, it's impossible not to notice the extensive bodywork that has been done. Dye's 3D body sculpting has resulted in saliva-inducing curves that leave it barely recognizable as a Matrix.

Changes haven't just been cosmetic, though. The guts of the Matrix have been spilled out onto the floor to be re-examined, re-engineered

and finally packed tightly back into the new frame. It's not just the performance of the internals that has been altered either; some have also been relocated. The LPR, for instance, is now fitted internally and can be used to adjust the operating pressure of the bolt in fine increments between 65-85 psi.

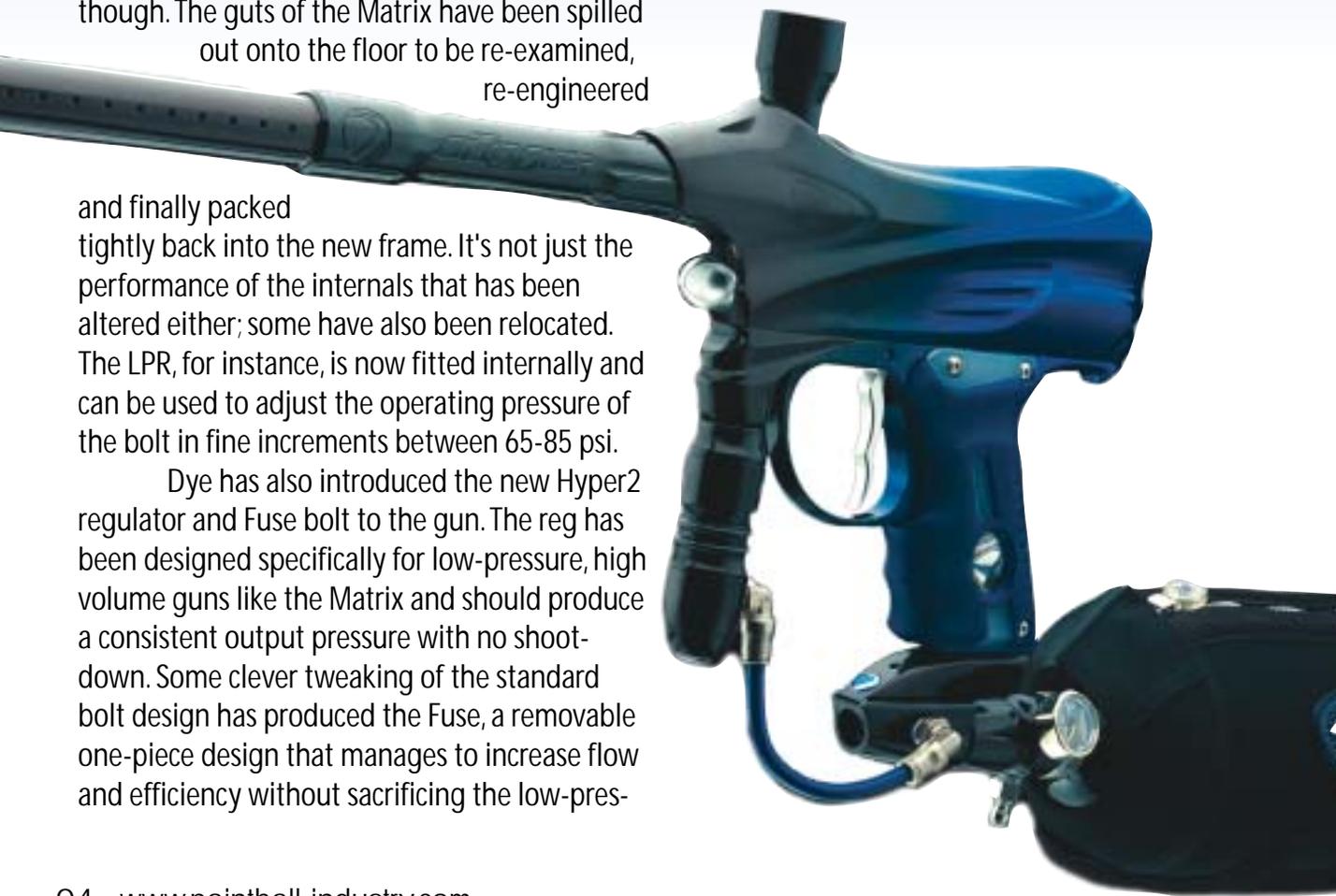
Dye has also introduced the new Hyper2 regulator and Fuse bolt to the gun. The reg has been designed specifically for low-pressure, high volume guns like the Matrix and should produce a consistent output pressure with no shoot-down. Some clever tweaking of the standard bolt design has produced the Fuse, a removable one-piece design that manages to increase flow and efficiency without sacrificing the low-pres-

sure operation.

The result of all this? Dye claims that the DM4 is only limited by the speed of your hopper. Quite a claim, but having seen the guns in action, we'd say that in a race between the Dye Matrix and the Intimidator, it's a photo finish. There are still a lot of changes that we haven't touched upon here, but since we've managed to secure one of the very first DM4s available we'll save the rest for the upcoming review in PGI.

The marker has now been shipping since October, but is in such high demand that stores are selling out before it even arrives. If you are hoping to stock the DM4, be prepared to join the back of the queue.

www.dyeprecision.com
858 536 5183



Nelson's New Formula Launches at World Cup

In the shadows of the Epcot Center at Walt Disney World last month, Nelson used the World Cup to unveil their newest and most advanced paintball. Nearly 1,300 sample kits containing the top-secret, next generation paintballs were distributed to players, field owners and store operators interested in testing the product for themselves.

A company commando handed out samples from the Nelson World Cup supply tent to attendees looking for a hyper-accurate extreme ball with a tooth-paste-thick, non-wipeable fill. Each kit contained initial product information with a sample quantity of 15 balls, which were referred to only as part of a confidential Project SFS or Special Forces Series.

"The Special Forces Series line of paintballs is the most advanced technology, high performance product that we've ever developed," said Karen Cox, Executive Vice President at Nelson Technologies Inc. "Our research and development

team has created a small sample of the balls for the players at the World Cup to test before they are available to the public."

Available to suppliers and consumers in January 2004, Nelson tell us the new balls feature the following benefits over other balls on the market:

- Unprecedented heavy, no-wipe fill
- Precise shot trajectory and unmatched accuracy
- Break on target, not in barrel
- Full metallic jacket

The logo for Nelson Paintballs features the word "nelson" in a bold, red, lowercase sans-serif font with a slight shadow effect. Below it, the word "PAINTBALLS" is written in a smaller, red, uppercase sans-serif font, with each letter separated by a small gap.

A portion of each sale will be donated to the Special

Operations Warrior Foundation, a non-profit group that provides college grants to the children of special operations personnel killed in the line of duty. www.nelsonpaintball.com

You & I&I!

I&I Sports has just announced the grand opening of their newest store in Anaheim Hills, California. Their latest sports location is situated on the 91 freeway where Imperial Highway meets the 91 in Anaheim at the Imperial Canyon Shopping Center. But this isn't I&I's biggest selling point; their staff roster is. One of the most respected gun techs in California, Jerry "The Cocker Doctor" Montgomery will be on-hand for all fixes, upgrades and tune-ups. Jerry has been a gun tech for years and there's no job too big or

too small. Have any questions? From tourney level to first timers the manager George Valdez is an expert in customer service; he's been working in this industry for over four years and has great knowledge of I&I's entire product line. They're now open!

www.iisports.com 714 363 0663



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The Assassin's New Clothes

If there's something that's always good for business, it's a product that's endorsed by a top Pro player. Even better than that, though, is a product that's actually been designed by said top Pro. Enter the NXe Pro-Pak. Developed and built from scratch by Oakland Assassin Pep Escutia, this harness is seriously as high-end as they come, as recent converts KAPP Factory, Joy Division, STP, some of the Assassins and a couple of New York Xtreme will readily attest.

Constructed from top quality, hardwearing materials with those extra design features and touches that you only get when you spend the extra cash. MSRP prices range from \$59.99 for the 3+2, up to \$79.99 for the 5+4 (please speak to NXe direct for the very reasonable dealer prices) and the pack is available for shipping now.

www.nxepaintball.com



Empire of the Gun

The inevitable latest addition to Empire's stable of competition standard kit is the super slim Empire Intimidator marker. The grip frame has been shortened to make the gun lighter and more compact, with a snatch grip incorporated into the design.

Electronically enhanced, a new board with an LCD display has been included with buttons that come out from the back of the frame. There's also new reg housing and front LPR with improved gas flow and built in low-pressure chamber. Stripped to the bare bones, the Empire

is possibly the lightest Intimidator yet, weighing around 2oz less than the LaSoya model.

www.nationalpaintball.com

856 464 1068



After Hours

The mid-range OutKast is the latest marker from WGP to get the Worr Blade treatment. Equipped with the new electronic frame, the upgraded gun has been dubbed the NightKast and comes in one of three never-before-used anno fades. If you've been looking to stock an electronic Cocker at a price so accessible your customers will be falling over each other to get at it, look no further.

www.worr.com

800 755 5061



Huntington Beach on Fox Sports

The NPPL's six-show deal with Fox Sports Network has finally been confirmed in writing.

Each program will be half an hour long, and you can get your first fix on the 28th of January. After that there will be five more weekly

hits, shown every Wednesday at 3:30pm, with all the action from this year's Super 7s series. The very last show will be a special edition, 2003 review.

Since the show's broadcast time slots in just before the popular Rush Hour on Fox Sports Net, it should hopefully pick up some new devotees tuning in early to see their favorite shows like Bluetorch and 54321.

www.nppl.tv



\$50k Top Prize?

The NXL teams have been grumbling all year about the lack of cash incentive for winning XBall tournaments. The temptation to take their eyes off the promised TV prize and defect to the NPPL, where the winning teams are showered in dollars, must be unbearable. Not to mention that dropping down to XBall Division One would at least give teams a stab at a none too shabby \$15,000.

But the grumbings have not gone unheeded, and the 1st prize figure currently being rumored is \$50,000. This would be an unprecedented amount, but the pay-off is that this is a winner-takes-all situation, with 2nd and 3rd places going home with nothing.

This arrangement will likely only really benefit the All Americans and Oakland Assassins who clearly stamped their authority in 2003; most of the current NXL teams are in little danger of

getting any sudden windfalls and the distant carrot of the \$50,000 cash prize won't be enough of an incentive for them to stay in the league. However, if this is the case, it would be an easy matter for the NXL to break the prize fund down into a \$25,000, \$15,000, \$10,000 split for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

We spoke to the NXL's Mike Ratko to see if the league would officially confirm any of the news we'd dug up. Interestingly, Mike didn't deny that they would be offering a \$50,000 prize next year but simply said the committee would be holding a meeting in mid December where any changes to next year's format would be decided.

On a separate note, Mike also told us that the test filming done by Dick Clark at the Orlando Cup was a great success and things may be moving forward sooner than expected.

Spyder Fenix Now Shipping

Probably the best looking Spyder to date, Kingman's latest offering bears closer resemblance to the Raven Nexion than any of its direct predecessors. A classy matte finish combined with more adventurous milling will both go towards increasing the new gun's appeal. Other extras like the three point adjustable reactive trigger, ball detentes and in-line expansion chamber are also sure to prove popular.

www.kingmanusa.com

626 430 2300



Price of Poison

At an MSRP of \$289, the Poison Arrow Pro kit from Poison Products could well be the most expensive barrel system ever produced but why? Well, all patent pending of course, this barrel is seriously engineered. After four years of research, the brains behind this project have finally come up with what they believe to be the best performing



and hardest wearing barrel system on the market.

Each set is crafted from solid 6061 heat-treated aircraft aluminum and solid surgical stainless steel – it is CNC machined, gun drilled and micro-honed twice to a tolerance unheard of before now in Paintball.

The set comes with a selection of inserts and different length barrels. The inserts are honed to a micro-finish smoother than glass, and when married to the barrel using Poison's clever system,

can be custom tuned to precisely fit every individual marker and choice of paint. The final innovation comes in the form of the shoot-through device. If a ball breaks in your barrel, slide the port cover along the barrel to expose a group of large rectangular ports, and then simply continue firing! Because the honing is smoother than glass, there is nothing for the paint to grip on to, so firing around 10 balls will effectively clean your barrel

out. Poison tells us that after a ball break, firing a

few balls through the barrel will return your system to at least 90% of its accuracy before the ball was broken.

This is a very new product, and Poison Products is currently looking for dealers to carry this unique and highly desirable item. If you would like to find out more, contact them or visit their website.

www.smoothertianglass.com
608 756 8130

Synners

Fremont, Ca based new company Syn (sub-division of Nexpro, Inc) has been coming out with some pretty innovative stuff of late. With a strong brand identity and a price tag that's not likely to break the bank, their range of products offers some functions that you won't have seen anywhere else. Take their pods, for example: Simple device – a small rubber pad inside the base and the lid helps prevent broken balls when a player dives or slams into a tree. Another great idea is the combo pack – a harness combined with a hydration system, designed with scenario players and all-day rec-ballers in mind. And this is just the beginning. Give them a call or visit their website if you'd like to find out more about this great



new company and how they can help improve your business.

www.synusa.com
510 249 9302

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Brazil Nuts

Harboring grand plans for your company for 2005? Do you even think that far ahead? Well, someone does, and that someone is Roberto from Cicciolina Paintball in Brazil. He is the promoter of the Brazilian Cup, and has wisely come to the conclusion that the best time to present Paintball to his fellow countryfolk is to run an event alongside the world's most colorful party – the Rio Carnival in Brazil's capital city, Rio de Janeiro. The carnival takes place in February, and although Feb 04 was an option, Roberto felt he should wait an extra year to make sure everything was in place for creating the perfect platform for the Paintball industry to launch itself on

the Brazilian public.

Brazil has a fast-growing Paintball community, and as more and more promoters and industry members begin to show interest, so they are rewarded with a continuous influx of new teams and players. We even hear that the NPPL has shown an interest in the possibility of running an event in Brazil – and with a Carnival to back it up, what better tournament for them to support than the Brazilian Cup 05?

If you think your company needs a fresh audience and you'd like to get involved in the Rio Carnival Paintball event, or if you simply have any questions or comments regarding the tournament, email cicciolinapaintball@hotmail.com.



Under Warranty

Diablo Direct has generously offered owners of the Mongoose marker another 12 months of care-free 'balling. Yes, demonstrating extreme confidence in the resilience of their gun, they've doubled the warranty time from six months to give you that extra selling point on an already popular entry-level marker.

www.diablodirect.com 800 346 5615

Protect Yourself...

...your customers, and even your referees! These protective exoskeletons from Field Armor are tougher than you think. Constructed from advanced, lightweight and extremely durable materials using Field Armor's own dynamic weaving technology, these suits are even breathable and weather resistant. The armoring comes in the form of several different polymers that have been combined to create a light weight, non-shrinking, weather resistant shield.

Extra functions on all versions include a walkie talkie pouch, neck guard, squeegee holder, two front zipped pockets, side mesh ventilation, dual kidney protectors, bicep protector, full back protector... the list goes on and on. Pod holders also come fitted as standard.

There are several different versions of the exoskeleton, including Referee, Stalker Pro, Desert Raider and Ballistic. If you feel the urge to make your refs' lives a bit less painful, or are simply fed up with moms coming over and complaining that their kids are covered in bruises, this could well be the solution for your field. MSRP is around \$149.99. www.fieldarmor.com
917 579 8416



Testing 1-2-3...

After months of waiting for Smart Parts to release their 03 Shocker, they finally unleashed it on their not-very-unsuspecting public in time for 04. We predict you can look forward to seeing the 04 Shocker in 05. Anyway, while we're on the subject of having our patience tested by the master engineers from Pennsylvania, we can now officially reveal that the all-new Max-Flo air system is very close to

launching. One last test, they told us, and then we begin shipping. Check in regularly on P8ntballer.com for the imminent newsflash.

www.smartparts.com



Easy as Bunkers!

Masters of bizarre anti-marketing campaigns (such as 'Giant Cats from Outerspace Endorse Our Products') S&K Enterprises have now launched their full line of Paintball obstacles. Known as EZ Bunkers, these obstacles are lightweight, non-inflatable and easy to set up and take down.

There is a choice of two sets: The EZ Bunker Player series is very competitively priced and is designed for backyard play or team training

– or even for field owners who are looking for a low-cost solution. The EZ Bunker Field Series is a more deluxe, hardwearing package that has been designed for commercial and event use. Both sets are environmentally friendly, incredibly versatile and can be combined in many different ways to create a whole range of field layouts.

Visit the website or email ezbunker@c.fl.rr.com to find out more about pricing and options.

www.ezbunker.com



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www.evolvepaintball.com
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Quick Plug

You may already be aware of some of their excellent apparel, but didn't actually know that it was designed and manufactured by Barrelplug Clothing. Barrelplug's best known product is probably the Eat Sleep Play tee (pictured), the one with the little workmen on it that we all wished we'd come up with and developed ourselves. Unfortunately they got there first. However, if you like what you see and are interested in stocking Barrelplug products in your store, call Curtis Dybala on 512 239 7044 or visit their website.

www.barrelplug.com



Broken Bones

Teaming up with AKA, Dan Bonebrake and his team of top techs have begun work on a custom Viking and Excalibur - the company released the Bonebrake Bushmaster only six months ago. At the moment Dan is still working out the finer details of the design, but he's promised to show us one of the new Vikings as soon as they come back from production. In the meantime, see what you think of their two brightest stars from the Bushy range...

www.danbonebrake.com

503 370 8749



Long and Short...

When Titanium Paintball released their first barrel, the Longbow, it was pretty much perfect but for one vital ingredient – style. So, after spending a little more time at the drawing board wearing bleached goatees and getting Japanese proverbs tattooed on their backs, Titanium Paintball are finally about to come back onto the market with a new, cool image. Moving away from the uninspiring straight tubes they kicked off with, all the Longbow barrels are now carved more in keeping with the cutting edge materials and ideas that form the basis of the company.

973 412 1300



Up for Air

Center Flag are currently making some big changes to their regulator designs. Little has been revealed as yet, but they tell us there will be plenty for players, stores and wholesalers to get excited about in a couple of months. The only piece of information we managed to squeeze out of Center Flag CEO Dennis Ashley was that the Dyna-Flow air system is being totally revamped as a smaller package with the addition of a removable rail.

www.centerflagproducts.com

630 553 2611



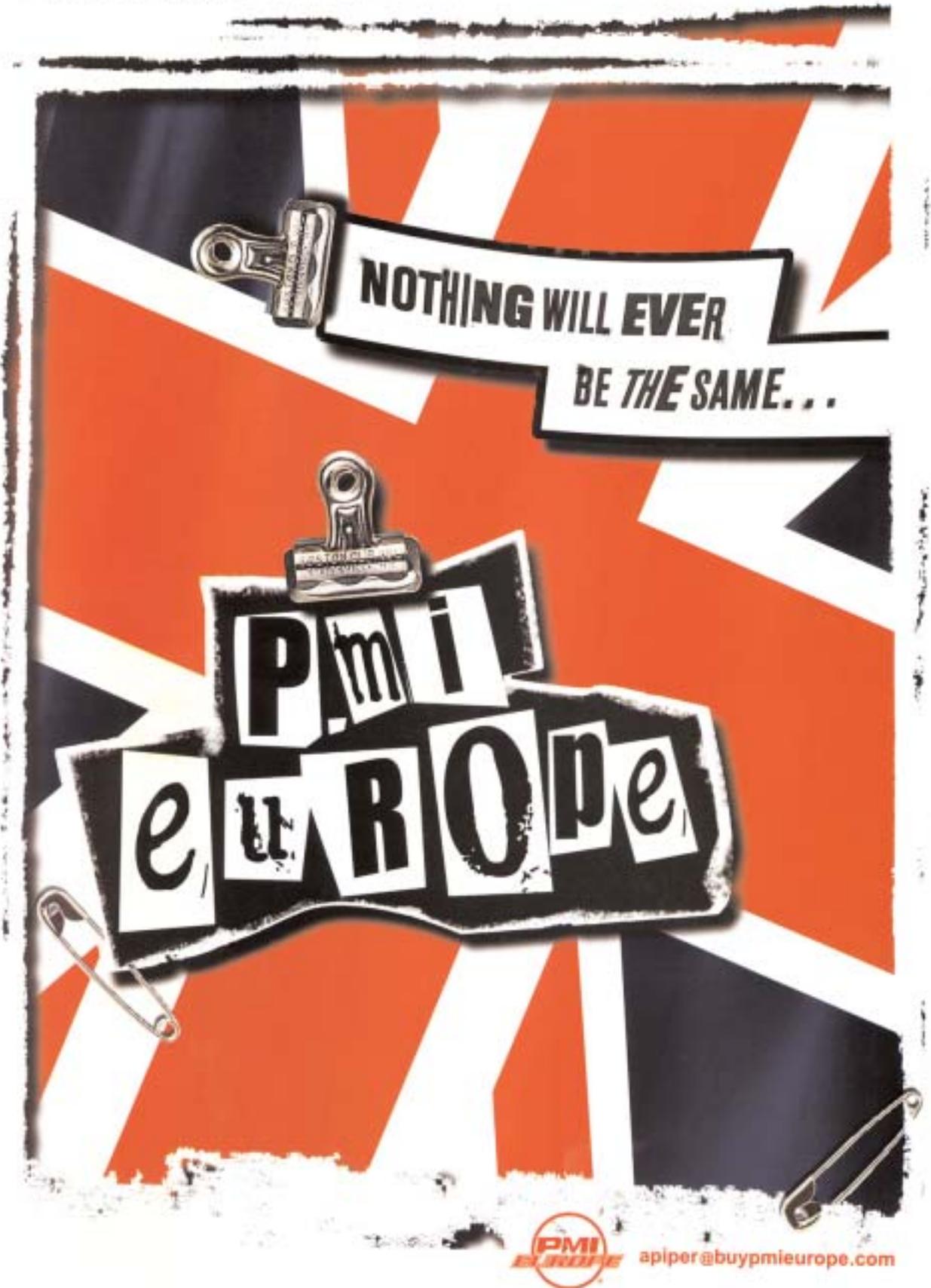
Superfly

Shocktech has now completed their range of bolt upgrades that are out to prove that they're pretty fly for little sticks of plastic. Superfly bolts can now be bought for the Intimidator and Impulse as well as the Autococker, Angel, Bushmaster and Spyder. The basic idea behind the Superfly series is that the three air outlets are angled to minimize the distorting affect gas blasts have on paintballs. Parts of the bolt that come into contact with the inside of the gun are made from delrin and an aluminum shaft is added for strength.

www.buyshocktech.com

708 418 1212

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In Profile

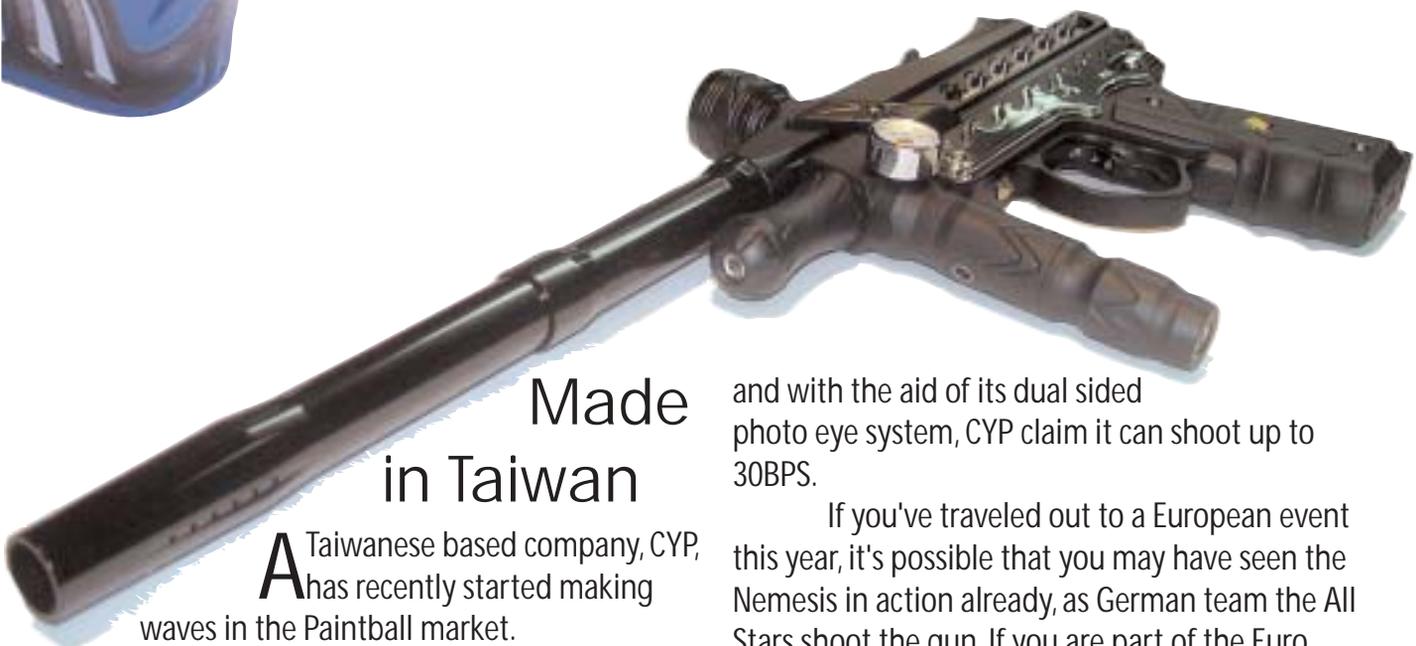
Draxxus has just recently got it so right. The new VForce Profiler goggle is impossible not to like. It has everything. The Profiler lens provides glorious panoramic views and is clearer than Mother Theresa's conscience. One problem with previous VForce models was that the slightly bulbous view screen had to be supported by an oversized shell. The bridge of the nose and the cheek panels, for instance, jutted out several inches from the face

making a significantly bigger overall target. These extraneous parts have now been cut away, leaving a gaunt, chiseled frame that any super-model would be proud of.

This is essentially the big sell of the Profiler. It has all the good qualities of the old VForce – of which there were many – minus the bad stuff. The mask is blissfully comfortable to wear and it does little to hinder your breathing. The lens doesn't fog and is simplicity itself to replace.

www.draxxus.com

514 337 1779



Made in Taiwan

ATaiwanese based company, CYP, has recently started making waves in the Paintball market.

Their flagship product is the Nemesis marker. This is an Intimidator style gun with a relatively wallet-friendly price tag. The Nemesis's buzz word, for all of you who speak techno, is titanium nitride. This is the substance used to coat the gun's internals - like the ram and cup seal – giving them a much tougher surface.

Like the Intimidator, the Nemesis is a low-pressure gun (cycling pressure of around 80-90psi)

and with the aid of its dual sided photo eye system, CYP claim it can shoot up to 30BPS.

If you've traveled out to a European event this year, it's possible that you may have seen the Nemesis in action already, as German team the All Stars shoot the gun. If you are part of the Euro crowd and you like what you see, then you're best off talking to Germany's Paintball Xpress, who currently distribute the Nemesis. If you are based in the USA and believe you are well-placed to work with CYP, then be sure to get in touch with them.

www.paintballxpress.de

www.paintguns.com.tw

Belt Up

National's EZ pack provides tournament players with a slightly cheaper, but still high quality alternative to the main brand ball haulers. Both horizontal and vertical versions are available and while style is kept to plain old black, they don't look tacky or insubstantial. Saving money on ribbons and bows also means that National can afford to add some generous padding.

www.nationalpaintball.com

800 724 6822

Got Balz?

And now for something completely different... The all-new bunker system from Balzlistic consists of nuclear-proof polyester panels that can be linked together to build megaplex style Wendy houses. Many different shaped panels can be bought, from which all manner of obstacles can be constructed.

By using fabric stretched over a frame, it might seem like Balzlistic are asking for trouble. Surely the bunkers won't last out the week? But the company assures us that the UV, mildew resistant material is able to withstand hundreds of point blank shots without sustaining any damage.

Another concern we had was that the panels might act like sails, with small gusts of wind quite literally being able to blow a player's cover. But this fear was also put to rest by Balzlistic who told us that bunkers are held in place by their bottom-heavy, weighted frames. However, if it really is blowing a gale, stakes are included to prevent your new field from taking to the skies.

Easy to put up by hand and flat-packable to save on storage space, the Balzlistic bunkers could prove useful to indoor site owners, or as practice fields for teams who are forced to store their kit in their bedrooms.

www.balzlistic.com

239 465 9288



Enter the Dragun

Among the wealth of sub-\$300 electro markers comes another gem, this time from new company Dragun Empire. Known as the TES, this marker has perhaps the most impressive package we've ever seen on a budget priced gun. While price wise it may push the upper boundaries of the budget threshold, you could never complain you weren't getting your money's worth.

Squeezing in just under the \$300 mark, the TES comes with an optic sensor eye. You heard right. A budget gun with an anti paint masher. It's just as well too, when you consider this little ripper can

reach finger-blistering speeds of 20 BPS.

The frame comes equipped with an LCD screen that includes both a shot counter and game timer. The body features 3D milling and you get all the usual extras you'd expect to find on any half decent package these days. Most importantly, it's low pressure and it shoots fast.

Dragun Empire is daring the rest of the budget world to follow them and with PMI scheduled to release a Piranha complete with anti-chop eye, it looks like they're game.

www.dragunempire.com

866 637 2486



X-Ray

Since being bought out by PMI, Extreme Rage has set to work giving an old Pursuit Marketing favorite the ER treatment. The product in question is the X-Ray mask, which has been restyled and looks a lot more consumer friendly for it.

www.buypmi.com

800 334 0502





Cyborg

The Cyborg is MacDev's new top o' the range electronic marker. Although it's an open bolt design, MacDev has managed to manufacture the internals so precisely that there's no blow back. They have also discovered a material that they believe will replace delrin as the number one substance for bolts. The new wonder stuff is called Maclatron. A suitably impressive name we think you'll agree. Unlike delrin, self-lubricating Maclatron doesn't swell in the heat allowing it to perform equally well in all conditions.

Since the Cyborg is made to be a tourney marker, the model we took for a test drive had a trigger bounce filter. However, to bring the gun in line with other top models, MacDev have decided not to include the filter on the final

product as it can restrict ROF.

The marker is fast. It's capable of shooting 30BPS. This is backed up by some very stable software – the board checks for trigger pulls an incomprehensible 12 million times a second. Like many of the latest guns to arrive on the scene, the Cyborg is low pressure. It runs about 200psi with a cocking pressure of 50psi. The marker also includes a beam type sensor that's able to detect any color paint. This makes sure the whole thing doesn't break down whilst the gun is spitting out balls at silly speeds.

MacDev is renowned for its high manufacturing standards and this is no exception. Other in-house parts like the Gladiator 04 reg have been incorporated to make a tight overall package. Currently the body work is very plain, but MacDev has promised to tart the Cyborg up sometime in 2004. MacDev 909 359 4859 www.macdev.net



Work IS Play

We take you through the highs and lows of owning a factory team

There are two sides to every coin, and this is no truer with than with the issue of sponsorship. Obviously you need exposure for your company, and a popular alternative to advertising in the magazines has always been through team sponsorship – whether you work out a deal with a squad that already exists, or you go the whole distance and build your own factory team from scratch. However you decide to go about it, there is a lot to weigh up here. How can you ensure that the benefits outweigh the costs?

We picked the brains of three factory team owners to see if their experiences could help answer some of the burning questions you may have before you make the decision to invest in a team for next season.

Jamie Brady: Bradyspaintball.com

Our team is made up of our most loyal customers over the years. We have been in the Paintball business for three years now, and they have been with us from the start. They are mostly younger kids just coming out of high school who are able to help at the store - they can answer phones, stock shelves and help customers when we are busy.

As a team, they sport our name well and they talk good about our company. What we do for them is help them with entry fees to tournaments. We also set them up with jerseys, packs and hats, t-shirts and, most importantly, paint. We have been mostly hooking them up for local tournaments for the last few years, but if they continue to improve we will try to enter some of the larger events.

www.bradyspaintball.com

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Rich Bianco: Punisherspb.com

I am the owner of Punishers Paintball Supply. We currently have two stores and a website at www.punisherspb.com. I myself play for a Division 1 XBall team called the All Americans.

The Punisherspb.com team is made up of local players from the Pittsburgh, Pa. area. All the kids on the team are under 20 years old so they are a young and upcoming team. We provide them with entry fees to the tournaments along with some equipment and paint. As the team does better they are awarded accordingly. They have played in several local tournaments and a few of the PSP 5-Man events. Next season we have plans for them to play in either the PSP XBall league or the Super 7. Whichever league we choose to go with they will play the whole series next season. I am cur-

rently planning to meet with some manufacturing companies to get them some better sponsorship for next season.

As far as what they do for me? Two of the kids on the team work for me at my stores. Some of the other players also volunteer at the store whenever we are short handed. They use our website address as their team name to get advertising out to other players. Basically they just try to send as many players to our stores and our website as they can and in return we take care of them with sponsorship. The whole team thing basically helps us give back to the kids that support us the most. This is our way of rewarding them for being loyal to our store!

Mike Lashbrook: ECX Factory

ECX Factory Team was formed in 2001 as a 5-Man Am B team to help promote the sale of our ECX Autococker. Our first National event was the Gettysburg NPPL in 2001.

After World Cup 2001 I decided that in order for the team to make it to the next level, they needed a full-time coach. One of our players' fathers, Art Helmick stepped up to coach the team. We started the 2002 season at Skyball where we failed to make the semis. With a little tweaking and a few player changes we decided to head out to the Las Vegas NPPL and play 5-Man Am A. Whatever changes we made paid off, as we took 1st place. We missed the finals cut in Chicago by a

about the same in Las Vegas finishing up 7th, and 8th again in Chicago. We then went out a recruited long time friend and assassin Markus Nielsen as well as JC Whittington from Bad Company. These two new additions lit the entire team on fire and we dominated the fields in Philly, only losing two of 14 games and finishing a strong 2nd behind Cartel.

The team has a 13-player roster ranging in age from 16 to 36. We practice at ECX Paintball Park in Newark Delaware, and Robinhood Paintball in Maryland. Between myself, my head coach and Gino at National Paintball the team gets free travel (air, hotel, rental car), free event paint and entry and discounted gear from our shop. Most of the



tiebreaker game against Boston Paintball. We managed a 4th place trophy at the Atlantic City event. We ended the year in 3rd place overall for 5-Man Am A.

When we got home from World Cup we decided to step it up and transform into a 10-Man team and play Am A in 2003. Little did we know at the time that the leagues would split and we would be forced into the newly formed Pro/Am classification. In the meantime we picked up a great sponsorship from National Paintball Supply and secured a deal to produce our own version of the Intimidator.

In LA we managed to make the semis but stalled in 8th place. From there we performed

team is shooting the ECX Intimidator. We have a clothing deal from Empire and Draxxus that keeps the guys in the newest threads.

Most of the guys help me to promote my store and field and the Intimidator guns. Some help ref at our field and a few of them work part time at my shop.

Next season is a complete fog right now. I have no idea what lies in store for next year... more 10-Man, XBall, 7-Man? Who knows. I guess we will have to wait until next season to really get a handle on it.

www.bradyspaintball.com

www.punisherspb.com

www.ecxactionsports.com