

Ga-ga record shattered at camp

BY KIRK GREENWOOD

STAFF WRITER

Briarwood Day Camp celebrated its 25th anniversary by staging the world's largest game of ga-ga ball.

Nearly 500 campers and staff members took part Monday in what they hoped would be a record-breaking event.

The camp even registered with Guinness World Records officials to have its achievement formally recognized once the game took place.

Buckingham

"The record right now is 250 (players); we're killin' it!" said Mike Green, camp co-owner and event coordinator.

Ga-ga is like dodgeball, which is popular with elementary-aged schoolchildren and campers all over the world. Players score outs by hitting their opponents with a rubber kickball on or below the knees. Shots to the head and upper body don't count and are discouraged for safety reasons.

"This is like 21st-century dodgeball. Our kids absolutely love it!" said Green.

Briarwood staff transformed a large, multipurpose athletic court into an octagonal ga-ga arena of giant proportions.

At the sound of a whistle, hundreds of campers and staff members filled the blacktop, volleying kickballs at one another from every direction.

"One of the interesting things about



BILL FRASER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Camp-goers at Briarwood Day Camp in Buckingham play what turned out to be a Guinness World Record-breaking game of ga-ga ball on Monday.

this game is that it is self-governing," said Green, as campers who had been eliminated scurried off without complaint to have cupcakes and create time capsules honoring the camp's anniversary.

"This has been a great way to commemorate 25 years," said Green.

Green and Matt Frankel, two friends

who met at summer camp as kids, took over operation of Briarwood from the original owners in 2009.

"We bought a great camp," said Green. "We're trying to keep the quality of the programming up and still keep it

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