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# The Herald

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— Steve McShane, event co-organizer



Adam Hazel, right, of the Rec N Balz team, picks up the ball just before hitting an opponent at Thursday's dodge ball tournament in Salinas. ORVILLE MYERS/The Herald

## DODGING THE DULL MIXER

### TOURNAMENT BLOWS TIES, SUSPENDERS OFF THE FIELD

By DENNIS TAYLOR  
Herald Staff Writer

The traditional business mixer — stuffed shirts sipping dry martinis and exchanging embossed business cards — died a violent death Thursday night in Salinas, where several dozen bug-eyed professionals tried to bludgeon each other into submission with bright-yellow volleyballs.

The event — a 20-team Dodge ball tournament at the Storm House indoor athletic facility — gave business



Jared Ames of the Rec N Balz throws the ball.

types from the Salinas Jaycees, the Central Coast Young Farmers and Ranchers, and the Monterey County Young Professionals

Group an opportunity to network through unbridled mayhem, the likes of which has rarely been seen on the Central Coast.

"This type of event lends itself to all kinds of creative expression," said Steve McShane, one of the co-organizers. "The Jaycees, Young Farmers and Young Professionals have been getting together in the past for mixers and community service-type things, but this is unique because this time we decided to center it around an athletic activity that's a little bit . . . out of the norm."

True to the "out-of-the-norm" spirit, one team, The Dodgedoctors, showed up in full medical scrubs, which probably gave comfort to anyone concerned with the

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## Dodge ball

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inevitable carnage that was to follow.

Another group used masking tape to create targets on their chests, apparently attempting to breed overconfidence in opposing teams.

"You notice how my target is off-center? If you shoot

at the target, you're going to miss me," confided Armando Pina of the McShane Nursery team. "These jerseys were designed in the South of France and imported."

Others sported fashion of a more independent nature. One guy complemented his camouflage shorts with argyle knee socks. A player for The Dirt Farmers trotted onto the court with a shoulder-length mullet

haircut the crowd could only hope was a wig.

One of the players for the Rec N Balz played in cotton Dockers and a white undershirt. The guys on the Mazda Raceway squad wore matching, aqua-colored T-shirts that apparently came off the children's rack, then got washed in very hot water.

"We've planned a lot of successful events like the MegaMixer, which happens

every June at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, and Forum for the Future, which we held last fall over at Pasadena," said McShane. He is founder and former chairman of the Farmers and Ranchers, a board member of the Young Professionals, and a past board member and vice chairman of the Jaycees.

"So, we've really realized the benefit of what can

happen when three young professional groups get together and put something on. Tonight is evidence of that."

And mix they did, hurling projectiles at each other at horrifying velocities, then refueling with a no-host bar and barbecue.

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