

Holstein convention scenes

Maryland officials have hard, hard time with the 'soft, soft drink'

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

BALTIMORE, Md. — The two combatants eyed each other across the concrete battlefield.

Excitement buzzed like electricity in the air as a crowd gathered, waiting to cheer the warriors to victory.

No, it's not a scene from Ben Hur or even a highly-touted boxing match but rather a fiercely competitive milking contest between Baltimore's mayor William Donald Schaefer and Maryland State Comptroller Louis Goldstein.

The contest, which appropriately took place on the last day of June — National Dairy Month, was one of the various activities highlighting the National Holstein Convention in Baltimore, last week.

Less than nine hours before the contest, in front of delegates at the Annual Meeting, Mayor Schaefer admitted he had been practicing for months and was ready to face his opponent, "Icy Fingers Goldstein."

That night at Hopkins Plaza in downtown Baltimore, the two men squared-off or rather "squeezed-off" and the battle began.

Cries of "fixed contest" and "fresh cow" erupted from the crowd as milk streamed heavily from every spigot of the mayor's bovine teammate.

Goldstein's partner had difficulty leaving all four feet on the ground and consequently the Comptroller's bucket filled with more hoof than milk.

At the end of the three-minute time limit the milking ceased and the crowd and contestants waited with breathless anticipation as the final results were announced.

Mayor Schaefer's practice paid off as he swept by Goldstein, 8 to 1 1/2.

That's ounces not pounds.



Mayor Schaefer (right) and State Comptroller Goldstein (left) exchange a pre-contest handshake. (But don't squeeze too hard fellas, those are hand are fighting machines.)



And they're off! Mayor Schaefer handles the situation well and jumps in front by a few dribbles.



"Where's the ON switch?" Louis Goldstein appears baffled since his four-faucet wonder didn't come with directions.



"It was nothing, folks, I just took the bull by the horns, I mean the cow by the udder." Mayor Schaefer displays his winning form.