

## **For the love of the game: Britton Broatch annual Wiffle Ball Tourney**

By: Jodi Mozdzer, Special to the Weekly

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Two spots of dirt amid the green grass represent where Britton once stood to hit and pitch a Wiffle ball during family gatherings. A Broatch family passion, Wiffle ball is always played when the family gets together.

Now, the Broatch family is extending their fond memories and their love of the sport to the Milford community and beyond. For the second year in a row, they will hold a Wiffle ball tournament in Britton's memory.

The idea came to Broatch during a family vacation following Britton's death.

"As I watched the family playing Wiffle ball, I thought, 'Oh my god. This is what we've done all our lives. Let's do it,'" said Jim Broatch.

The tournament raises funds for scholarships at Foran High School and other charitable causes, along with bringing the fun that the Broatch family had with Britton to the community.

"What better tribute than this to keep his name alive and also do good," Jim said.

The whole family gets together to organize the event, with one son traveling all the way from San Diego to be there. Broatch says about 15 family members in all attend.

Last year, 66 teams signed up to compete. Some teams had practicing Wiffle ball players, but others just signed up to take part in a good time and a good cause.

Although it seems similar to baseball, Wiffle ball has some fundamental differences. For instance, there is no base running. Imaginary runners make runs based on where the ball lands on a vinyl diamond laid on the field. Also, there are only two strikes to an out. At the tournament, each team is guaranteed to play at least two games.

"It's a good spectator sport," said Jim, adding that the fans will get more than a good show. There will be 45 different items up for raffle, including a YMCA family membership and a variety of gift certificates. The raffle tickets cost 50 cents each. There will also be food provided by The Outback Steakhouse.

Donations from last year's tournament went to about a dozen different recipients, including the Milford Library, the John Tartaglio Fund and AmeriCares Foundation. Three scholarships were also given to Foran seniors Michael Guarino Jr., Drew DeFonzo and Derek Hill last month.

The second annual Britton John Broatch Wiffle Tournament will take place at Foran High School Saturday, July 9, at 10 a.m. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.thebjbtournament.com](http://www.thebjbtournament.com).