

ARTICLE 2

TITLE: _____?

When one thinks of 4th of July celebrations the things that come to mind are an afternoon feast of watermelon, chips and . . . lots and lots of hot dogs. The best place to eat these tasty hot dogs? The one and only 'Nathan's Famous Fourth Of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest', where participants are handsomely rewarded for devouring as many hot dogs (buns and all) as they can, in the given time.

The fun competition is a Coney Island, New York tradition that dates back to at least 1972 and if some reports are to be believed maybe even 1916. However it was not until 2001, when Japan's Takeru Kobayashi devoured 50 hot dogs in 12 minutes, that it gained international fame. Though Kobayashi, who won the event for six consecutive years until he was dethroned by California rookie Joey Chestnut in 2007, is long gone, the contest which is now streamed live on the ESPN channel, has become a July 4th tradition - one that is watched by millions of people every year.

Joey "Jaws" Chestnut has dominated this competition for the last seven years. The 6-foot tall competitive eater who is currently ranked first in the world by the International Federation of Competitive Eating, demolished 61 hot dogs in the allotted ten minutes. While that was good enough to take home the official mustard-yellow winner's belt and total prize purse of \$40,000 USD, it fell short of the 69 hot dogs and buns the 30-year-old managed to devour in 2013. A more impressive record is that Joey has now won the hot dog eating title for eight consecutive years, which is a record we don't think anyone will be able to beat!