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July 29, 2012

7/15/2012 2:02:00 AM

TOP DOGS

Diebold eats 22 franks to claim contest win
By CASSIE COPE

You win a hot dog eating contest by eating quickly and not throwing up.

Michael A. Diebold did just that when he ate 22 hot dogs in 12 minutes during the S.C. Festival of Discovery Hot Dog Eating Contest, sponsored by Skins.

"You've got to be able to get it down fast," Diebold said.



Michael A. Diebold, of Anderson, ate 22 hot dogs in 12 minutes to win the S.C. Festival of Discovery annual Hot Dog Eating Contest, sponsored by Skins. (Matt Walsh | Index-Journal)

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Dousing the hot dogs in water helps add to the speed. That's because bread is hard to eat quickly, Diebold said, so wetting the bun makes it easier to get down. Competitors get disqualified if they throw up.

Diebold has never thrown up in a contest, he said, and can still eat after competitions. He ate a 23rd hot dog not long after competing. After the first contest

ever competed in he ate popcorn afterward, he said.

The 48-year-old surprised himself Saturday by eating the most hot dogs he ever has. He doubled the amount he ate at the last contest he competed in June 30 when severe heat had an effect on his performance.

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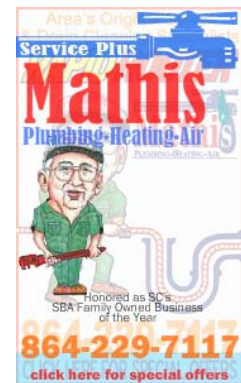


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