

The Scene

# Bee for Literacy spells success

• Scanlon & Gearinger, Telxon round out top 3 in Project: LEARN event

The Beacon Journal's spelling bee team wore dunce caps made of newspaper Tuesday for the Project: LEARN Bee for Literacy, but it must have been a disguise.



Kerry Coughlin

They out-spelled 11 other corporate teams at the Hilton at Quaker Square to win the eighth annual competition, whose proceeds benefit Project:

LEARN of Summit County. The bee is sponsored by the Beacon Journal.

The bee format changed last year to a point system based on the number of words spelled correctly in timed rounds. Adding to the fun this year, cheering sections got the chance to redeem some of their team's points by taking another stab at words they missed in the first two rounds.

Beacon Journal teammates Bill Canterbury, Bob Christoff and Barbara McIntyre won by speedily spelling 48 words, including "diphtheria," "fricasse" and "ingenue."

Scanlon & Gearinger placed second Tuesday with spellers Mark Hillkert, Maura Scanlon and Kris Turner. They spelled humdingers such as "gendarme," "beatification" and "psychosomatic."

Joyce Goff, Janet Grembs and Dave Strong captured third place



ROBIN WITTEK/Beacon Journal

Eric Knattis of Time Warner Cable awaits team's turn in the spelling bee.

for Telxon Corp, spelling the likes of "fiduciary," "miscellaneous" and "rheumatism."

McIntyre said practicing spelling quickly with a stopwatch helped her team win.

"We practiced the ricochet method of spelling — bing, bing bing!" she said.

The newspaper also captured first place in the 1992 and 1995 bees.

According to chairwoman Madeline Bozzelli, \$13,000 in proceeds this year will go toward helping 30,000 county residents who can't read the phone book, signs or directions. The bee has raised more than \$80,000 for Project: LEARN in its eight years.

Celebrity team members Mark Williamson, TV personality; Karla Walker, WKSU (89.7-FM); and Rob

Dumke, WAKR (1590-AM), didn't mind finishing dead last. They livened things up a bit, with Dumke spelling flatulence "g-a-s."

Before the competition, Cal King, dressed as a "spelling bee," worked the crowd of 240. The retired minister from Cuyahoga Falls asked guests their names and then spelled them back to them.

Also helping out with the bee were pronouncer David Lieberth, score master Caesar Carrino and judges Dr. William Kerek, Mary Elum and Ralph Darrow.

Barbara Norton, executive director for Project: LEARN of Summit County, said she plans to retire in June. She and her husband Bob will move to Keowee Key, S.C., to live near daughter Kitty Norton and their three grandchildren.

