

PAINTBALL

Players have pistols loaded - with paint

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

They hide in the woods. They have guns. They fire and run. "Dead man down!" A man's been shot — with paint.

On an average weekday, Al Evelyn is the director of research finance and operations at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. On the weekend, he is ready to paint, but not with a brush — with a gun.

James Baysinger, a sophomore nursing major at Union College, gazed recently at a glass case full of weapons and ammunition. He was looking for a pistol, but he wasn't preparing for a weekend hunt.

Evelyn and Baysinger were preparing for a weekend paintball game at Conestoga Park. They are only two of the thousands of Nebraskans who have played paintball in the past year.

Paintball parodies laser tag, but the playing field for paintball is outdoors, and the guns shoot balls of colored vegetable oil.

Evelyn said he had no interest in paintball until his son convinced him to play.

"I thought it was sort of different," he said, "but fathers do what their sons want to do."

Evelyn's son has since dropped paintball to save up for a car, but his father is hooked.

"It's a hobby. It reduced stress, and it's a way of getting away from things," Evelyn said. "When I play, I don't think about anything else other than the game."

Evelyn spends his days behind a



Travis Heying/DN

Doug Kvassay, right, and Chip Pokorny get ready to shoot the enemy during a game of paintball at Conestoga Park. Players, armed with small weapons that fire pellets of paint, battle every Sunday, playing games such as "Capture the Flag" and "Ambush."

desk working on his computer. He said he used paintball to ease family, work and financial pressures.

Evelyn said paintball was a good family bonding activity. He said he had seen fathers and sons or daughters — even whole families — playing paintball.

"In the game, age and size and speed don't matter, so a 13-year-old boy and his 35-year-old father are pretty equal," he said. "It's good for women too, because it's so

equal."

Chuck Jeffers, owner of General Jeffers Army Navy Store, said this general equality drew many people to paintball. He said when he offered paintball supplies in 1990, about 12 people were interested.

Last year, he supplied 2,200 people.

"It's a good, safe sport, as long as you mind the rules," he said.

Jeffers said anyone could play

paintball.

"I have two 13-year-old daughters who play. My wife plays. I've had some 9- and 10-year-olds play," he said. "I had one guy who played on crutches for a year and a half."

"We called him 'Tick,' because once you got him in, you could never get him out."

Paintball equipment includes a paintball gun, a face mask, goggles, air tanks and paint pellets. The pellets consist of vegetable oil and

coloring encased in gelatin.

A beginner single-shot gun starts at about \$75. Moving up, a pump gun costs \$150 to \$200. The next range is a semiautomatic gun, which can cost more than \$1,200.

A beginner can be fully equipped for \$200, and a more advanced player can pay more than \$3,000. Equipment can be rented for about \$30 per person, including a "green fee" or field admission charge.

Paintball can be played several ways. The two most popular are five-man and 10-man "Capture the Flag" games. Teams start at opposite ends of the field, with a flag in the center or at each team's starting point. The object is to get the flag and hang it at the opposing team's starting point.

When a man is hit, he has to shout "Dead man down!" and retreat to a safety zone. Jeffers said the game relied on honesty.

"You do get some guys who try to wipe the stuff off," he said. "That doesn't last for long, because you find out who they are and shoot them 10 or 15 times. Then it's a lot harder to wipe off."

No matter how it's played, Ed Poorman, owner of Splat City, a paintball store in Kearney, said paintball's popularity was on the rise.

Poorman said Nebraska had played host to four tournaments and "big games" so far this year.

A "big game," he said, is one in which more than 400 people can register, and each team consists of

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New videos not intended for children

By Gerry Boltz
Staff Reporter

It's not a week for the kids on the new video release shelves; everything is rated R. However, fear not! The pick of the week is a made-for-kids movie that the adults will love, too! All new movies were released on Wednesday.

"The Paper" (R) — Director Ron Howard ("Backdraft," "Splash") brings the life of a metropolitan newspaper to the big screen, with the help of a megastar cast that includes Michael Keaton, Glenn Close and Marisa Tomei.

Although the movie covers a large number of subplots — ranging from story deadlines to gun-toting columnists — everything flows and comes together well, and all the performers are terrific.

"The Inkwell" (R) — Set in

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Courtesy of Gramercy Pictures

From left, Chris O'Neill, Stephen Dorff and Ian Hart star as Beatles George Harrison, Stu Sutcliffe and John Lennon in "Backbeat."

Led Zeppelin reunion won't include bassist

2 band members to play on MTV's "Unleaded" show

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

John Paul Jones, the former Led Zeppelin bassist and keyboardist, won't be a part of tonight's "Unleaded" reunion on MTV.

In fact, Jones didn't even know that his former bandmates, guitarist Jimmy Page and singer Robert Plant, would play together again until he heard about it on CNN, Jones said in a phone interview from England.

"I was slightly surprised they're getting back together," Jones said. "You'd usually call someone if you're doing something like that."

Jones said he spoke to both Page and Plant more than a year ago and said the two were fine. His attitude toward the reunion was indifferent.

"We never were a social group, and that is one of the reasons we were so successful," Jones said.

While Led Zeppelin was together, the band members saw each other only when they were on the road, he said. When they were done touring, they went their separate ways.

"It's no surprise I haven't spoken to them."

Jones said he would have considered joining Page and Plant if the venture was going to be financially profitable and if the members were going to create new works.

Led Zeppelin disbanded in December 1980 after the September death of drummer John Bonham.