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They had 'grand time' at Highland Games

activities will be announced later. The

More than 8,500 spectators watched as bagpipe bands, highland dancers and "heavy-weight" competitors participated in the Scottish Highland Games in Webster Groves over the weekend.

"Everyone had a grand time," said William Stirrat, chairman of the games and president of the Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis, which sponsored

Stirrat, in his heavy Scottish brogue, said the day-long activities were held at Memorial Park The proceeds from the event on Saturday are to be donated to children's charities throughout the St. Louis area.

The athlete of the day was Ed McComas of Myrtle Beach, S.C., a national record holder in Scottish heavy

STIRRAT SAID MCCOMAS participated in most of the heavy events, which included putting the stone, various hammer throws and beer barrel tosses.

The winner of the hammer throws was Fred Vaughn of Baltimore, Md. Vaughn broke two American records and narrowly missed breaking the world's record in three events. In the hammer throwing events, Vaughn threw a 16 lb. hammer 134 feet. He also threw a 22 lb. hammer 104 feet. He narrowly missed breaking the world record for throwing a 56 lb. hammer for height. Vaughn threw the heavy hammer 15 feet-6 inches into the air, missing the record by one inch.

Peter Hoyt of Orlando, Fla., was the top winner in the empty beer barrel toss, sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, Inc. Hoyt won that event while Bill Bangert of Black Jack won the filled beer barrel toss.

"THAT BANGERT IS quite a fellow," Stirrat said. "In Scotland, he is still considered to be the 'world's strongest mayor'.'

Stirrat was referring to the mayor of Champ's ability to carry the 750 lb. Dinnie Stone across the Bridge of Potarch, Scotland. Bangert, two years ago, carried the stone across the bridge: a fete which has not been accomplished in the last 151 years, according to Stirrat.

In other events, Mary Beth Miller of Kansas City won the Highland Dancing Award. Miss Miller, 16, was the winner last year of the Highland Dancing award at the Cowal Games in Scotland. Stirrat said she was the first American girl to ever win an award in Highland

Dancing at any game held in Scotland.

WINNER OF THE McDonnell-Douglas Trophy for bagpipe bands was the Midlothian, Ill., Scottish Pipe Band. The group ranked the highest of all the pipe bands, which came from as far away as Atlanta and Minneapolis for the event.

Midlothian, Ill., is named for Midlothian County in Scotland.



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