

Sports

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Family of 5 finds fun, wins medals in foosball

By RONALD P. CLARK THE GAZETTE

Every family has its quirks, something that brings it together. For a local family of five, the quirk happens to be foosball.

"I just love the game," said father Jeff Ferrier, who also serves as one of the foosball commissioners for the Rocky Mountain State Games. "I found out there were tournaments and I started to get involved. I used to play in high school and then I found out there were professionals in the area. I picked it up and started to further my skills."

Four Ferriers have entered to play foosball in next month's games. While Jeff plays competitively on a consistent basis, the rest of the family takes a more casual approach.

"He plays every tournament he can," said Jeff's wife, Michele. "But the kids and I play when the games come around."



From left to right, Nicolas, 10, Samantha, 13, David, 11, Michele and Jeff Ferrier enjoy the game of foosball. All but David will participate in the upcoming Rocky Mountain State Games. (BRYAN OLLER, THE GAZETTE)

The family has found ways to use the game in different ways, such as skipping out on work or sleep.

"That has been the thing," Michele said. "It's bedtime. 'I don't want to go to bed. I'll play foosball.' That does happen."

Daughter Samantha, 13, occasionally will use the game to get out of doing chores.

"Yeah, sometimes I have a lot of stuff to do," Samantha said.

The game is just another way to bring the family closer.

"It's something we can do together," Michele said. "It's a fun sport."

With the exception of Michele, who is competing in her first games, the rest of the Ferrier clan own medals.

In last year's games, Jeff won a bronze medal in the men's rookie doubles division and Samantha won a bronze in the coed 12-and-under unranked rookie doubles division. Leading the way with two medals is son Nicolas, 10. He won a silver in the coed 12-and-under unranked rookie doubles division last year and another silver in the 12-and-under unranked rookie doubles division the previous year with his brother David, 11.

This year, with the addition of the 25-over/15-under division, Nicolas will be able to team with his dad and they're looking to bring home two more medals.

INFORMATION

The Rocky Mountain State Games will take place Aug. 4-6 in the Colorado Springs area.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 4 at the World Arena. To register, go to www.thesportscorp.org