



MEDIA RELEASE

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Pickleball showdown: Mayor Jacobs to play Durrett, raise diabetes awareness

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Knox County Commission Chairwoman Courtney Durrett have an athletic score to settle.

The two are tied in their annual sports competitions designed to raise diabetes awareness. The tie will be broken Nov. 15, 2022, at 5 p.m. on the pickleball courts at Carl Cowan Park.

“The last couple of years, I’ve challenged Mayor Jacobs to a friendly sports competition. It’s all for National Diabetes Awareness Month, which is November. Last year, he won in the batting cages. The year before that, I won in the free throw competition,” said Durrett. “This year, we’re going to play pickleball.”

The competition emphasizes the importance of healthy habits and physical activity in living with the diabetes. Durrett’s 9-year-old daughter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes a few years ago. Mayor Jacobs noted his own father has diabetes.

“More than 34 million Americans have diabetes, and one-in-five don’t even know it. That includes adults and children,” said Mayor Jacobs.

Both Durrett and Jacobs are newcomers to the sport of pickleball. Durrett said it is difficult to know if either player has a physical advantage.

“He’s got the reach on me. I’m a little nervous about that. However, I feel like my knees are in a little bit better shape,” said Durrett.

Mayor Jacobs, who played college basketball, claims he lost the 2020 free throw competition because he “wasn’t warmed up.”

[This YouTube video shows](#) how the competitors are preparing for the “pickle brawl,” including assistance from relatives and coworkers.

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