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Indiana City Brewing celebrates homebrewers with a battle of beers

INDIANAPOLIS, April 7, 2016 — It may not be the greatest spectacle in racing, but Indiana City Brewing Company considers homebrewing a league sport. Jerseys, sponsors, branded merchandise, a roaring crowd—a complete beer duel. Indiana City is gearing up for its fourth Home Brewer Battle on June 11, 2016 from 1-3 p.m. at the brewery's taproom at 24 Shelby St.

Given the theme of Belgian Pale Ale, 16 brewers will go head to head in a single-elimination bracket challenge ruled by popular vote. Seventy-five tasters will blindly decide which brewer wins the right to have a full-scale batch of their beer brewed at Indiana City, receive custom label artwork from artist, Aaron Scamihorn, and taste their brew on tap at Indiana City and bars and restaurants around town, among other prizes.

Indiana City founder, Ray Kamstra's brewing career began humbly, on a stovetop in his small Chicago apartment in 2009. Upon entering competitions and winning awards, Ray was inspired to move to full-scale production in 2012 and brew for the city that means so much to him. "Sitting at a bar, sharing a pint of a beer you brewed is the ultimate dream of the homebrewer," Kamstra remarked. Through the bi-annual Home Brewer Battles, Ray and the Indiana City family hope to support and inspire brewers that start simply, to be proud of their craft.

Sponsors of this summer's battle include local homebrew shop, Great Fermentations, and Brew Bracket, makers of the original beer tasting party in a box. Registration for both brewers and tasters begins Friday, April 8 and will remain open until spots are filled. The free, limited tickets are available through Eventbrite and open to those 21 and over.

Indiana City hopes that as the battle gains popularity, more homebrewers are encouraged to share their craft with the world and raise a glass to where they come from.