

This world champion lives to eat

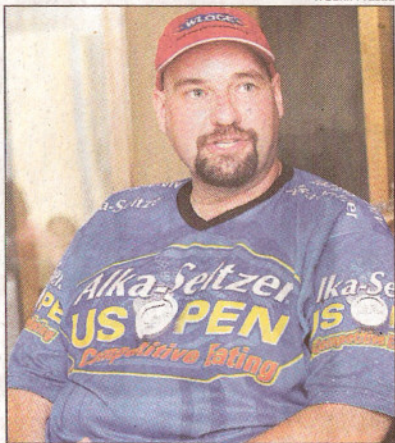
US-based Dale Boone holds over 20 records in competitive eating

Deepa Bhashti | TNN

Bangalore: His visiting card says 'eater'. He will eat anything that is food, from baked beans to Russian pelemenis (small dumplings) to reindeer sausage to sushi to oysters; it all depends on the sponsor of the eating competition.

Dale Boone, an American from Atlanta, eats for a living. As a representative of the World League of Competitive Eating (WLOCE) in Bangalore, his job now is to look for local recruits and popularize competitive eating.

Aamaa (yes), Boone lapses into Tamil: having studied in Chennai, he is fluent in Tamil. Boone holds over 20 records from several places — New York to Alaska. He narrates some examples: 115 pieces of sushi in 10 minutes, six pounds of baked beans in 1.22 minutes, 100 oysters in two minutes... A lot of training went into it, mainly from New York.



K Sunil Prasad

JOY OF EATING: Dale Boone from the US is a world champion in competitive eating. He's hunting for local talent in Bangalore

Every new place he goes to, he picks out recipes and local delicacies.

He says knowing the chemistry of the body is crucial. "One should know what the limit should be, how a combination of foods would react... The speed of eating comes naturally over time. There is

not much preparation to be done before a competition," he says.

There have been no serious injuries that resulted from eating competitions. "There were a couple of deaths after the competition was over but then, it was not ascertained whether the excess food was the reason for it," he points out. Every eating competition has the organizers giving an orientation programme to the participants. A doctor is at the venue too and all safety measures are taken.

Boone is the world champion in competitive eating. Currently, he is based in Bangalore working for the WLOCE. When he enters the competition arena, he becomes the foul-mouthed 'Mouth of the South', a persona he has cultivated over the years, complete with a coonskin hat to celebrate his heritage, large overalls and a cow-bell in his hand.

Ask him his age and he only tells you that he is known in professional circles as the most eligible bachelor. "Revealing my age will lead to diminishing of my value as a competitor," he says.

Most world eaters are from the US and many such eaters in India go unrecognized. WLOCE is scouting for local eaters. Call 9986030787.