

Even football novices catch on 'Quick Count' card game racks up points

BY RYAN CLARK | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

NEWPORT - When Jeff Spelman saw his children playing with trading cards last year, it reminded him of his own youth, when he and friends would spend days trading football and baseball cards.

But he noticed his children weren't trading sports cards. They were actually playing Pokemon. While decades ago, children were content to look at and trade their baseball and football cards, Spelman realized that the children of today wanted to do something with their collectible cards.

"I decided to create a sports card game for them that was fun, and educational as well," said the 41-year-old from Newport. "My first efforts were a baseball game. I came up with something but didn't feel it was it. Then, I had the inspiration to try it with football and it clicked very fast."

Behold - Quick Count was born in March 2007. Spelman took a deck of regular playing cards and renamed them with various football terms. "It takes only 10 minutes to learn and about 30 minutes to play," he said.

"The rules are simple, but there is plenty of strategy and skillful ways to improve your chances of scoring. The object, like in real football, is to outscore your opponent. Most of the cards are either run, pass or catch. They all have yardage on each card ranging from a five-yard play to a 75-yard play. You play a 'drive' face up in front of you and have to go exactly 100 yards to score a touchdown using a combination of cards.

Players typically have three cards in their hands and each time going through the deck is one quarter of the game - just like a real football game. A deck costs \$7.99.

Spelman, who grew up in Reading, has previously worked in public and media relations for Notre Dame and Virginia. He also ran a company that allowed baseball prospects to perform in front of Major League Baseball and college scouts.

Now Spelman is working on improving his football card game.

"We've sold over 2,000 games so far and have online orders from nearly 30 different states so far, so the game is beginning to spread quickly," he said. "Right now, there are over 25 retail stores in Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, Louisville and Dayton carrying the game.

"Many people are enjoying Quick Count as an easy-to-take-along travel game," he says.

"I'd estimate that nearly 80 percent of the buyers are women. I'm getting many e-mails from moms and wives who are really enjoying the game and say it's a great way for them to connect with their husband or son's interest in football. They appreciate how quickly you can learn Quick Count and that the game is very fast-moving and fun."

Visit www.quickcountfootball.com for more information.

Know of someone in your community with a good story to tell? Let us know. Submit nominees to Ryan Clark by

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Jeff Spelman and his son Cannon play Quick Count. The family lives in Newport. Spelman's game is available at a number of local outlets and also online