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Fans Get Kick Out Of Ulman Show

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The Ulman Fund Soccer Classic, held Aug. 1 at Howard High School, lived up to its hype. It showcased some of the East Coast's top collegiate soccer talent, and the charity benefit also included some crowd-pleasing events. Olympian Clint Peay signed autographs, the Washington Warthogs mascot showed up, jugglers competed against each other and fans bid on signed soccer memorabilia at a silent auction. And the main event resulted in a shootout, with Team Fila defeating Team Adidas.

The event's founder, Doug Ulman, 19, played most of the affair. He formed the fund last year with a mission to help young adults - and their families - affected by cancer. Joining the former Centennial standout at the game were 10 of his teammates from Brown University, 13 stars from the Howard County area and other college stars. Ulman says the charity event, which drew an estimated 1,900 people, raised \$25,000 for the Ulman Fund of the Wellness Community-Baltimore. "It was a great night for the community," said Ulman, who plans to make it an annual event. "The whole thing [the fund] was just started in April, and to get this many people out here is great. Everybody's been really supportive."

Fans entering the grounds were bombarded with everything from educational literature and sunscreen handouts to Ulman Classic T-shirts and other memorabilia. Peay signed autographs before the game, and one youngster even had the former Oakland Mills star ink his shorts. "I ran into Doug at the Columbia mall a few months back and he told me the situation," Peay said. "We go back a long way - I was Doug's counselor at a prep camp when he was a kid. "This is probably the smartest group of soccer players I've ever seen. They're all from schools like Brown, Penn, Georgetown and Harvard," added Peay.

The game itself had plenty of action, and it was a spirited but friendly affair. The first half's action was highlighted by some fantastic diving saves by former Centennial goalkeeper and Virginia All-American Brock Yetso, whose Fila team led 2-0 at halftime, thanks to goals by Mike Rudy and Josh Anderson. Both are Ulman's teammates at Brown. "Both teams were playing hard and it was a good time," Yetso said. "A lot of us played together growing up, so it was good that everyone was able to come together in support of Doug. He started this from scratch, and it's pretty unbelievable what he's accomplished." Adidas tied the score in the second half after North Carolina's Joe DeSilva put a line drive into the left corner past a diving Yetso and Brown's Phil Lynch headed in another score. With regulation ending in a 2-2 tie, Ulman was up first for Fila in the shootout. With the crowd roaring, he missed high by inches. His team persevered, thanks to scores by former Centennial star Cory Piette and former Howard standout Chris Dodson. Former Howard star Mike Green provided Adidas' only score in the shootout. "Everyone started off playing really relaxed, but toward the end of the game everyone

wanted to win in front of the home fans," said former Wilde Lake star Jeff Curtis, who played for Adidas.

After the game, Ulman gathered both teams in a huddle and thanked them for participating. Some head flown in that day, and others had long drives home that night. The University of Virginia's Ben Olsen, for example, drove four hours from his Middletown, Pa., home to play in the game. "Guys came from all over to play," said Columbia's Chris Folkemer, who played on Team Fila. "I'm just happy that we're all healthy and able to be out here."

ow that it appears Ulman had beaten the cancer and is regaining his health and strength, he will return to Brown in the next few weeks. Soccer is in his plans. "I lost a lot of weight, but I plan to play at Brown," said Ulman, who was diagnosed with chondrosarcoma, a rare form of cancer, last year and then underwent surgery in June for a melanoma discovered on his arm. "I'm trying to get my weight back and get in shape. Before the game I gathered everyone around in the locker room and had a moment of silence. Then I said 'Let's have fun out there because there are so many people that would love to play ball, but not everyone can.'"