



Owl and the T-Shirt



It was the Friday before the 2008 Beast of the East. The final field preparations were being made, with Tournament Director Greg Sandy making sure everything was set at the PGSA Soccer Complex. There in one of the soccer goal nets Greg found a Great Horned Owl hopelessly entangled and struggling to survive. An emergency call was made to the Eastern Wildlife Center (www.easternwildlifecenter.com) and Mark Ansley, Wildlife Rehabilitator, came to the rescue. Mark was already on his way home at the end of the day when he got the emergency call, so he arrived with limited equipment to rescue a Great Horned. The Great Horned Owl is the largest owl in North America and are known to be nasty guys: Beasts. Without even the advantage of gloves, Mark used his jacket to secure the owl's claws and proceeded for 10 long minutes to weave the net free from around the owl's legs and wings.



Finally free at last, the Great Horned Owl was held up and flew off about 8 feet off the ground, in a straight line down the tree line and into the woods. What an awesome sight. There was the real Beast of the East. Successfully rescued, the owl could watch and hoot for his favorite team from the woods that weekend.



The PGSA Soccer Complex and surrounding area is the natural habitat for owls, fox, deer rabbit and other wildlife. As the PGSA celebrates 20 years of the Beast of the East we look forward to the next 20 years and ecologically co-existing with our natural “landlords”. The 2009 Beast of the East t-shirt logo symbolizes that coexistence with nature at the PGSA Complex.

We hope you will enjoy your weekend at our Complex and thank you for your respect of our natural setting as we spend the weekend living and playing together.