fun and games

It's a tossup which game's better

Toss 'Ems Soccer Edition is a fun game . . . for awhile.

ZOEY BENJAMIN HARRIS
PLANET REVIEWER

The object of this game is one player throws magnetic soccer balls at the goalie on the game board from a distance. The other player is on defence, they throw the goalie at the net and try to defend it. Then the person on offence has to throw magnetic soccer balls at the board, trying to score.

It's a fun game, for awhile. But eventually it gets very easy and it's not a challenge. You can readjust the screws on the bottom to make the board tilt more upright and the game gets harder. If the game is too easy it doesn't grab my attention for very long.

When I play with my friends, it isn't very fun being the defender. The defender only gets to throw the goalie once. Even if they miss, they can only throw once. Then you have too sit back and watch everyone else on offence have fun.

I like Toss 'Ems because you don't have to have your friends over to play it, you can play all by yourself. But I would still recommend playing it with friends. It's much more fun that way. The game is very simple so it would probably appeal to younger children ages 3 to 6.

Although it's not an incredible game, it's not bad. It's still challenging because you have to throw the pieces in such a way that they don't bounce off or miss the board entirely and the fact that they are magnetic is cool. You could throw the pieces at other surfaces too, like your fridge! I wouldn't buy it, but it's still very fun to play.

Zoey Benjamin Harris, 11, Gr. 6 in Toronto.

Ready aim fire: Hurling magnetic disks at targets is a lot more fun with friends.

I would give Toss 'Ems Hockey Edition four stars

MICHAEL BOLAND
PLANET REVIEWER

Toss 'Ems Hockey Edition not only shoots . . . it also scores as a game for the family.

Oh sure, it can be a bit fiddly for a kid to set up, because the playing board needs screws to be inserted so that it ends up looking like a tent turned sideways. No problem, though, if you've got a dad who thinks he's a handyman.

The screws are used to set up four different skill levels: beginner, advanced, pro tosser, extreme tosser. I would recommend that you put it in beginner mode for your first time playing. It's actually very easy to play and this is where the "toss 'em" part comes in.

From a line both players agree to, the one on defence tosses a magnetic plastic cut-out of a stretched out goaltender onto the field of play (the side of the tent). The idea is to cover most of the hockey net that sits in the middle.

The player on offence then tosses five magnetic plastic pucks at the board — they're about the size of a silver dollar — and hopes they stick to the part of the net not covered by the goalie. The ones that do count for a goal.

Then you clear the board and the player on defence gets five pucks to score. I like the idea of three turns each, like three periods in a hockey game, and an exciting overtime session to break any ties.

I played the first game with my mom, who beat me by a walloping score of 13 to 1. (Beginner's luck!) Later on, as I got a little more practice, I did a lot better. Toss 'Ems is also a neat game because it comes in a box and can be taken to a friend's house. I couldn't bring my Playstation 2 anywhere.

Another "up" side for parents is that, unless the players get too excited, it can be played very quietly. No loud sound effects like some video games.

The box says it is for ages 3 and up, which means basically all the family can join in the fun.

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