



Decatur Derby Dames to raise funds for organ donation group

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DECATUR — The Life Goes On organ donation organization will benefit from an April 6 event pairing the Decatur Derby Dames flat track roller derby team and the Jesse White Tumblers.

It's the season opener for the Derby Dames, facing the Dames of Anarchy from Mason City, Iowa. The nationally acclaimed Jesse White Tumblers from Chicago will be the halftime entertainment

Also at halftime, the Derby Dames will receive the Illinois "Donate Life America Sporting Award" for promoting organ donation. The Derby Dames contributed \$3,000 to Life Goes On last season, the proceeds from the season-opening match.

The Derby Dames have 20 members. Other home games at the Decatur Civic Center are June 1 with the River Valley Rollergirls from Stevens Point, Wis., and

Sept. 7 with the Southland Slashers from Coal City. There are five road matches.

As for the Life Goes On organization, April is National Donate Life Month. Jesse White, the Illinois secretary of state, said 4,800 in Illinois await a lifesaving vital organ transplant. "The impressive 5.1 million names on the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry represent hope for many in need of a transplant, but it's still not enough to meet the ever-increasing need for viable organs and tissue."

Gillian Irons of Maroa and Jared Anderson of Forsyth are among those helped.

Gillian, 7, had a kidney transplant at the age of 3. Due to a genetic disorder, her sister, Grace, and father are also facing kidney problems.

Jared Anderson had a kidney transplant four years ago and now needs to have that kidney replaced. He's a freshman at Maroa-Forsyth High School.

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If you go

WHAT: Derby Dames flat track roller derby team vs. Mason City, Iowa

WHERE: Decatur Civic Center

WHEN: 7 p.m. Saturday, April 6