



Bib Sheet

Puzzle Code: 839

New York City, New York
Age: 20

Barnaby Johnson hails from District 9 of Kansas. Under 14 World Championships were his first appearance on the competitive world stage. Ripe for disruption, the youth tournament had been won by the same participant for the last 4 years. Ricardo Palacias was the reigning champion until Barnaby defeated him in a huge upset. In the meantime, Johnson has continued to build up his skills. This past year, Barnaby has won 5 eating competitions. Over the next half decade, he is slated to become the top eater in the nation. Such finesse in the final seconds of each contest is unprecedented.

Barnaby's parents also had commendable eating careers. At just 24, his mother, Chelsea Johnson, was crowned champion at the U.S. National Championships. Chelsea set the world record for most asparagus eaten in 9 minutes. On a similar note, Barnaby's father Niles was also a respectable eater. Niles and Chelsea raised Barnaby in an environment of relentless training.

Barnaby's next competition is the 14-course meal time trial. Ripe for disruption, this contest has never been won by a junior eater before. After the most recent iteration of the event, the new world record was shattered. This is a huge opportunity for Barnaby to break into the adult competitive scene. Stay on the lookout for his performance in the event this upcoming year.

Since his most recent competition, Barnaby has stayed out of the media spotlight. Putting speculation aside, the only insider information has come from his parents, who say he is still undergoing the same secret regimen they have kept him under since childhood. A cabal of experts has clamored for them to reveal their secrets, or at least train other promising eaters, but to no avail. Ms. Johnson has considered the possibility after Barnaby retires from competitive eating, but he shows no signs of stopping soon.

Barnaby is on track to win the junior U.S. National Championships every year until he turns 20. After that, he will no longer be eligible and must compete in the adult division. Chelsea believes that Barnaby can bring home the gold every year with her and her husband's coaching. Overconfidence though maybe the demise of young Barnaby. Niles plans to keep Barnaby's attitude in check.

Junior high for Barnaby was not about academics. After finishing his last period each day, he would rush back home. Mrs. Johnson would be preparing for one of Barnaby's daily training sessions. Before Barnaby came back home, Mrs. Johnson would prepare several pounds of food - whatever was on the training schedule for that week. As soon as Barnaby came home he would start eating. Leftovers were not an option. Absolutely everything had to be eaten, as per Mrs. Johnson's training program. Yes, it is

no doubt intense, but clearly it produces results. A shame though that Mrs. Johnson does not divulge more details about her training program.

Most of Barnaby's successes a youth came in hot dog contests. Eating hot dogs is deceptively difficult. An iron will and enormous stomach capacity are just prerequisites. This past year, Barnaby set the youth record, with 15 hot dogs eaten in just 14 seconds over 1 minute, 13 seconds faster than the previous world record. Playing to his strengths, Barnaby went out of the gate at a rapid pace, shoveling 5 of his dogs in the first quarter minute alone. In the latter portion, his pace slowed but he had already built up a hefty lead, and Barnaby ended up online eating 2 dogs in the last 25 seconds. Eduardo Fenwick, the 18 year old from Florida, took second place in the event, though not even coming close to Barnaby's record. Such a spectacular performance by Barnaby Johnson that held true to his family history.

One of Barnaby's favorite events is the 5x3 mixed food relay. Yes, as the name suggests, a total of 15 courses are eaten in the event, split amongst the team. Starting off, the first team member finishes the first course and tags in the second team member. This goes on until the last member finishes his or her course, after which the event is over. Event courses are not known ahead of time, so participants are given a few minutes to determine their eating order. Regularly at family reunions, Barnaby and his parents and cousins compete in a friendly mixed food relay. Soon, Barnaby will transition to also competing in this event on the competitive stage.

Barnaby also dabbles in liquid-based events. Right now, the record for most half-gallons of milk drunk is 18 in 4 minutes. Ilene Johnson, Barnaby's cousin, holds the record for this. Stating a comparison between Barnaby and Ilene would be a bit unfair though, since Ilene specializes in liquid-based events. Ketchup also counts as a liquid in these events and Ilene holds the record for that as well - chugging 13 packages of regulation sized ketchup packets in 15 minutes, without the use of water. Even the thought of chugging ketchup sounds disgusting to many, but Barnaby will no doubt be at that level in liquid events as well, given his 4 hours of daily practice for the past 14 years. The Johnson family truly is a wonder of the eating world.

Together, the Johnson family holds an illustrious record in competitive eating. Even the youngest Johnsons, Barnaby's nephew and niece, Xavier and Elena, hold records in their age group. Xavier and his sister have been training for the greater part of a decade, since they were both 1 and old enough to eat solid food, and are planning to enter their first contest very soon. Most children their age would be learning arithmetic at school, but not these two. Elena seems to have developed a liking to short-course events and eats with immense speed, devouring 13 hot dogs in 5 minutes which is very impressive for her age. Xavier on the other hand is very good long-course eater. Ritual in the Johnson family dictates that Barnaby will continue the training for these two as they grow older. Over the generations, tradition was for older Johnson's to train younger ones. Like his parents trained him, the job of training Elena and Xavier fell to Barnaby. Labeled as one of the upcoming greatest eaters of all time, Barnaby will definitely be a great coach for his niece and nephew. So for now, that is the story of Barnaby Johnson.

**Note though other eaters often have nicknames, Barnaby prefers using just his real name in contests.
**Note also that Barnaby always rounds his best scores to the nearest whole number when he reports them