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- sports
- opinion
- obituaries
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- announcements
- photo galleries
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- calendars
- news archive
- world news

- main page
- news
- entertainment
- outdoors
- eTechnology
- classifieds
- real estate
- communities
- cars online
- jobs
- personals

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- customer service
- subscribe
- advertise
- about us

- feedback form
- submit announcement
- submit news

search

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- classifieds
- obituaries
- homes & real estate
- new & used cars
- jobs
- personals

[home](#) > [news](#) > [crafts](#)

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

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Yarn ball eyecatching as Mariners' first pitch



COURTESY PHOTO

Marilyn Hendricks, owner of Marilyn's Yarn, created this ball, with \$400 in materials, for the Mariners' Stitch 'N' Pitch night Tuesday.

KATIE ROTHENBERGER
THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

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If you caught the game between the Seattle Mariners and Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday, you probably noticed the opening pitch - even from the nosebleed seats at Safeco Field.

That's because Marilyn Hendricks, owner of Marilyn's Yarn, turned the

humble white ball with red stitching into what can only be described as a fabulous Mardi Gras party favor for the second annual Stitch 'N' Pitch night at the ball field.

Stitch 'N' Pitch welcomes those who stitch, quilt, embroider, sew and bead to the ballpark

- and encourages them to bring their crafting projects along.

"This year it's a big deal," Hendricks says prior to the event. "They have set aside a whole block of seats in an upper tier and there are booths for vendors."

Last year the Mariners threw a ball of yarn for the opening pitch and it fell apart. This year, they asked yarn stores in the area to make one.

The minute they heard about the crafting project, the folks at Marilyn's Yarn called the Mariners, Hendricks says.

And what a ball it was. Hendricks did all of the sewing, crocheting, knitting and beadwork. She also felted the ball in the washing machine.

She wrapped vivid red, orange, yellow and pink yarn - intertwined with shades of blue and green - around the ball. There were twists and loops and buttons.

The cost for yarn, beads, rings, buttons and thread? A whopping \$400.

"It was a scary, exciting, horrible, fun project," the 52-year-old Hendricks says. "I had no idea what I was doing or how it would come out."

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