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Monday, Jul 31, 2006

## Arlington XML

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### OUTS AND CRAFTS

## About 200 attend Stick N' Pitch at Ameriquest

By BEN TINSLEY  
 STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

ARLINGTON -- Tarie Williams of Arlington likes the gadgets: knitting needles that light up in the dark, oversized wooden needles that look better suited for slaying vampires.

Mary McDowell of Grand Prairie said she lost 50 pounds by knitting, her mind more focused on the project than on eating.

On Sunday, they were among about 200 people who came out for Stitch N' Pitch at Ameriquest Field in Arlington. The promotional event was sponsored by the Texas Rangers and the National NeedleArts Association, a trade group. The group wants to get more people interested in needle crafts such as knitting and crochet, which are often perceived as hobbies for grandmothers.

"Needle knitting is the rage," said Barbara Paley, a group spokeswoman. "It's hot."

This is the event's fifth game. The biggest was a Seattle Mariners game last year that drew 2,500 needle crafters. The idea first came out last year when Mariners officials decided to try to sell 200 discounted tickets. The NeedleArts Association liked the idea and started selling tickets around the country.

Next year's schedule includes events at Los Angeles Dodgers, San Diego Padres and Cleveland Indians games.

The crafters do have something in common with the ballplayers. The knitters want to avoid dropping a stitch as much as the outfielders want not to drop the ball.

ONLINE: [www.tnna.org](http://www.tnna.org)



STAR-TELEGRAM/JEFFERY WASHINGTON

Dru Ann Miller and Annemieke Fritz, both of Arlington, knit Sunday at the Stitch N' Pitch event at Ameriquest Field.  
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