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Bigger than Big Mac — Pa. bar has 6-pound burger

CLEARFIELD (AP) — Viewers of the Food Network might need big-screen televisions if they want to catch videotaped segments on Denny's Beer Barrel and Pub.

The Clearfield County tavern boasts 2-, 3- and 6-pound hamburgers, which will be featured on June installments of two shows, "The Best Of" and "Extreme Cuisine."

The producers of the syndicated cable show were in Clearfield, about 35 miles northwest of State College, for a cheeseburger eating contest Monday.

Ten contestants were given their

choice of eating a 2-pound Challenger in less than an hour, a 3-pound Baby Boy in 90 minutes or less, or three full hours to eat the Ye Olde 96er — so named because it weighs 96 ounces.

Lori Weiss, who weighs less than 100 pounds, downed her 3-pounder in 36 minutes, beating her previous best of 45 minutes. It took Kevin Graham of Shiloh, 59½ minutes to finish his 2-pounder.

No other contestants finished their burgers. Ye Olde 96er humbled Justin Dinkfelt, a 6-foot-7-inch bodybuilder from Clearfield.

"There's no strategy. I'm a big eater, I can handle that," Dinkfelt said before the contest, noting he once ate 22 eggs for breakfast.

"He was probably the worst finisher," said Denny Liegey, who owns the bar. "People think the big guys are the ones that will put these things away. But Lori proves otherwise."

Liegey said he has received about one request a month since his 6-pounder hit the menu in 1998, and nobody has finished it yet.

"It's the biggest burger we've ever seen," said Eileen Matthews, executive producer of "The Best Of." "It's perfect for television."

"I told Denny to be prepared because once this goes on television there will be people coming from all over, knocking down the doors to get at one of those things," Matthews said.



AP Photo

Dennis Liegey, owner of Denny's Beer Barrel Pub in Clearfield, holds a 6-pound burger.