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July 1, 2002

UNBRIDLED FUN REIGNS AT POLO CLASSIC

The only things that are certain in life are death and taxes. Oh, and that it will absolutely, positively pour on the night of the annual Active 20-30 Polo Ball.

I have witnessed this bizarre weather phenomenon for three years running, but not once have the downpours stopped hundreds of faithful supporters from attending the fun formal fete, which just celebrated its 15th year by kicking off the 2002 Denver Polo Classic Weekend. Fuller's brewery was the title sponsor for the three-day affair at the Polo Reserve at Columbine Country Club.

Finlandia sponsored the opening black-tie ball, a tribute to the Roaring '20s that included a spirited live auction led by auctioneer Paul Behr and a silent auction featuring items such as rare bottles of wine provided by Specialty Wines and its owner, Don Hein, and wine paraphernalia provided by Todd Wheeler, who runs Concierge Colorado. Auction proceeds totaled \$50,000.

A fabulous buffet dinner was catered by Paul's Catering, while guests danced the night away to the sounds of Al Tuna and the Kool Kompany, provided by Moments Notice Entertainment. Supporters spotted at the polo fete included Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers; Fuller's North America export manager Stamford Gallsworthy; Fuller's Rocky Mountain district manager Alex Grier; and Natalie Noakes, assistant to the president of Paulaner, North America, which owns Fuller's.

Also spotted were Frances Koncilja, whose company, Koncilja & Associates, sponsored one of the semifinal polo matches; attorneys Jay Kamlet and Willie Shepherd from Kamlet Shepherd Reichert & Maes, whose firm sponsored the polo team that beat a team sponsored by Fuller's for the 2002 championship trophy; Bighorn Center for Public Policy founder Rutt Bridges with Ilene Brody, who enjoyed their first Active 20-30 polo fete; Steve Christofferen from Holme Roberts & Owen; Jack Fox from the Fox Co.; Dave Puchi from the Highline Group; and polo player Michael Payne and his fiancée, Michelle Mosser.

Mosser and her gal pals Donna Sheehan, Melina Marshick and Susan Koehler, wife of polo player Bob Koehler, looked fantastic as flappers, as did other flapper gals in the crowd, such as Natasha Greene, Kristina Smith-Becker, Shellie Moore and Ann Atanasio.

Day 2 featured Family Day, while Day 3 was the Fetzer Championship Polo Classic.

Polo fans such as gal pals Melanie Ness, Pamela Todd, Lisa Capps, Tina Gangel, Diane Jones and Toni Stinton arrived at the final matches decked out in garden party attire, ready to partake of red and white Fetzer wines, bloody marys and mimosas.

More than 1,200 guests dined on fantastic food from eateries such as 240 Union, Bistro Adde Brewster, Imperial Chinese Restaurant, Mattie's House of Mirrors, Melting Pot, Great Northern Tavern, Opus Restaurant, Pasquini's, Roy's of Cherry Creek, Sacre Bleu, Sambuca Jazz Cafe and Washington Park Grill.

Also on hand were plenty of members of the Active 20-30 Foundation who plan the popular fund-raiser each year.

The group's motto - ``A man never stands so tall as when he kneels to help a child" - explains why these men between 20 and 39 years old and their annual polo parties have raised more than \$2 million for local children's charities.

This year's fete is expected to net more than \$100,000.

Active 20-30 member Bill Young was this year's polo chairman. His committee included President Paul Wiesner; President-elect Marc Bradac; auction chairman Patrick Fairfield; volunteer chairman Mark Herzfeld; restaurant chairman Dave Shaw; beverage chairman Tom McConnell; and media chairman Craig Mills, who enjoyed the weekend events with his fiancée, Dr. Nancy Willerton, a veterinarian at University Hills Animal Hospital.

For more information about the Denver Active 20-30 Foundation, call (303) 221-4025.