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20-30 fete a sporting success

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It was billed as "An Evening Under the Stars" and while the sky held more clouds than stars last Saturday night, the rain held off and the 200 guests were free to enjoy good food and lively conversation along the beautiful poolside terrace at Cableland.

The al fresco fete was Denver Active 20-30 Club's black-tie salute to sponsors and other VIPs connected to its 10th Denver Polo Classic. The sporting affair took place the following day before 1,500 spectators at Columbine Polo & Equestrian Center in Littleton.

The Polo Classic is the club's signature event, accounting for about \$250,000 of the \$600,000 the group's 40 members raised for children's charities in 1996.

"What's unique about our club is that it's 40 guys - professional men between the ages of 20 and 39 - who work as a team to raise the kind of money other, more established, groups can only dream of," said President David Puchi. "We raise more money than the 62 other Active 20-30 clubs combined."

A recent example of the club's teamwork came when 15 members took time off work to erect the tent on the polo grounds, thus eliminating a sizable installation fee that the rental company would have charged.

Their money-making ventures also have the advantage of matching funds from the Denver Nuggets Community Fund and the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation. "We're very lucky in that respect," Puchi said. "The matching funds make a big difference for us and the charities."

In addition to the Polo Classic, Denver Active 20-30 members help stage the annual Health Care Invitational for Denver Kids Inc. (Aug. 16 at east Denver's Hill-Steck Park) and a dinner to benefit Colorado Christian Home/Tennyson Center. The club also has "adopted" the Colorado I Have A Dream Foundation's Class of 2006.

Steve Christopherson chaired "An Evening Under the Stars." David Barnes organized the Polo Classic.

Guests at one or both of the events included Jane Prancan, executive director of the US West Foundation; Marty Moore of Guaranty Bank; Michael Payne, representing Ideal Dial; Brad Brown and Nancy Lepirino from the MLF Foundation; Polo Reserve developer Kip Fuller; and Lisa Zenoff from the Denver Film Society with former KCFR staffer

Peter Jones, who is now editing "Exposed," a trade journal for the film and video industries.

Also, Steve Narans; Kelly Felice, executive director of the I Have A Dream Foundation; restaurant consultant Cliff Young with his bride, Sharon Gomez; Victor DiLeo; and Channel 7 meteorologist Ron Allen, who emceed the Polo Classic, with his wife, Lynn.

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