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## **THIS YEAR, POLO CLASSIC LOOKED MORE LIKE WATER POLO**

Mother Nature tried her best to dampen the spirits of everyone at the U S West Denver Polo Classic on Sunday. But not even a sporadic drizzle could keep 2,000 people from attending the annual match, hosted by the Denver Active 20 / 30 Foundation at the Polo Reserve.

The event was to be held July 26 but was rescheduled because a downpour drenched the field. Then, less than 24 hours before the new date, Mother Nature struck again.

"The wind was so strong it pulled an 80-foot tent that was staked into the ground up and over the other tents, poles and all," Denver Active 20 / 30 board member Mark Osborn said. Luckily, one of the sponsors was Butler Rents, and within minutes employees were helping the event committee set up all over again.

"Mother Nature threw so many adverse situations at us. I think the committee did a great job pulling together," Osborn said. "We also cannot thank the sponsors enough for sticking with us."

Kent Stevinson, a founding member of the organization, drove onto the field in style - in a Jaguar - and threw out the first ball to begin the match. It goes without saying that Stevinson Lexus and Stevinson Jaguar have supported the event for quite some time.

Although the field wasn't in prime shape, the teams managed to get in four chukkers, instead of the usual six. Developer Kip Fuller, owner of the Polo Reserve and Columbine Equestrian Center, said he came off the field feeling as if he'd just had a great riding lesson.

"In those kinds of conditions, you can't take anything for granted," Fuller said. "You have to make sure you are in sync with your horse."

Before the match, guests were treated to a celebrity golf-cart polo match, champagne from Taittinger and food from local restaurants, including The Palm, Brasserie Z, Adde Brewster, Denver Chophouse & Brewery, Ruth's Chris Steak House and Mission Trujillo. Not too mention another amenity that's a must when conditions are this harsh - valet parking. All-ways Valet should be welcome at any event.

Besides the Stevinson dealerships, sponsors helping the organization raise more than \$200,000 included U S West, Guaranty Bank, Taittinger Champagne, Coca-Cola, Naya, KIMN-FM and Adolph Coors Co. Guests enjoying the afternoon were Steve Christoffersen, Scott Patrick, Heidi and Kent Carlson, Sandra and David Puchi, Julie and Rex Moore, Margaret and Brian Whitford, Nathalie and Jack Fox, Karen and Donald Hackstaff, Lori and Mark Osborn, David Barnes, Wendy and Christopher Kane and Bill Trinen.