



POLO CLASSIC RAISES \$200,000 FOR CHARITY

August 15, 1999

Galloping into the hearts of young and old alike last weekend were eight ponies with the spunk and energy to race across a field with their riders' mallets flying at a quarter-pound plastic ball. These high-speed thoroughbreds make the game of polo beautiful and graceful, yet very exciting. And the polo players aren't too bad to look at, either.

A weekend of festivities for the 12th Annual U S West Polo Classic began Friday with a Polo Ball at the Donald R. Seawell Ballroom. More than 400 guests dressed in their finest had the opportunity to practice their casino skills with blackjack and craps tables, show off their dancing talents with the swing band Money Plays Eight, and bid on silent and live auction items throughout the evening.

Ron Allen, former weather anchor for KMGH-TV Channel 7, flew in from Orlando, Fla., where he now owns his own club called The Village Polo Club.

"I would not have missed this weekend for anything," Allen said. "Many people don't know this, but this is the longest-running polo charity match in the country. I won the first two tournaments and have announced the last eight. I'm very proud to be associated with the organization."

Allen flew into town on his own dime. The only payment he wanted was the opportunity to play. The practice on Saturday was particularly memorable for him because he was able to play with his former teammates.

Sunday brought more than 2,000 people to watch the Polo Classic and help raise \$200,000 for The Denver Active 20 / 30 Foundation, an organization of men committed to giving back to the Denver community. Proceeds from the weekend's activities will go toward helping charities such as Denver Kids, I Have a Dream Foundation and Colorado Christian Home / Tennyson Center.

Kudos go to the following for supporting The Denver Active 20 / 30 Foundation: Atmosphere Inc.; All-Ways Valet; Korbel Champagne; Jerri's Tobacco Shop; Ruth's Chris Steakhouse; Rialto Cafe; Bistro Adde Brewster, National Distributing Co.; US Bank; Rocky Mountain Lincoln Dealers; Aetna US Healthcare; Country Club Lane by the Gray Group; Colorado Expression; Cherry Creek Shopping Center.

Talented polo riders included Tom Caleel; Danny Brown; Kip Fuller; Dan Boyle; Barry Stout; Christopher Landon; John Snyder; Gonzalo Vinueles; Brad Brown; Jeff Leeper; Marcello Freyde; Mike Payne; Robert Gray; Rick Lontin; Bob Koehler; and Marcello Castro. Among the committee members organizing the weekend festivities were Craig Mills, chairman of the Denver Polo Classic; Kent Carlson; Mark Osborn; Bruce Kabat; Dave Shaw; Reed Hoffman; Doug Sandridge; Ryan Chapp; Steve Christoffersen; Donald Hackstaff; Jack Fox; David Puchi; Robert Kiger; Greg Sauber; David Barnes; Norris, the group's faithful companion; and Scott Patrick, president of the organization.

Other guests included Kevin Smith; Jane Prancan; Ginny and Louis Messina; Jesse Ketter and son Josh; Janie Harrington; Andreia Samarjian; Maita Lester; Josh Duignan; Jim Smith; Brett Goodman; Mike Simmons; Bob Gray; Matt Schaeffer; Teri East; Joan Corbett; Karen Baumgardner; Sharon Carr; Wendy Ferz; Nancy Lumbe.