

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic a Great Day for Duffers

Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club in Aurora was the setting for the Chamber's 17<sup>th</sup> annual "Best" golf classic held last Friday. The slightly overcast sky provided a defense against the normally blazing August sun creating the perfect "South-Metro-Denver-Chamber-kind-of-day" allowing everyone to thoroughly enjoy a perfect day on the links.

Prior to the tourney start, teams enjoyed the complimentary Bloody Mary bar hosted by Lockton Companies of Colorado and took their guess at how many corks were in a glass vase for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to Flemings Prime Steakhouse & Wine bar. The course restaurant provided great box lunches. The pretzel-twisted buns, loads of turkey, ham or roast beef and fresh condiments were devoured and teams slowly coalesced around the waiting golf carts, took practice swings on the driving range and perfected their angles on the putting green, sponsored by Bellco Credit Union. Individual players were introduced and foursomes took form through the efforts of the ever-busy golf classic committee and Chamber staff.



The traditional shot-gun start got underway with the procession of carts heading out to their prospective holes to begin the rounds. The start went to plan and golfers teed up for their first drive of the day with enthusiasm.

Several holes offered awards for a variety of golfing skills. Closest to the pin and longest drive contests for men and women were presented on various holes throughout the game.

A betting hole was also featured with duffers playing the odds on their expertise (several players used their mulligans trying to get within the 20' diameter circle without success). The final hole challenged players to see who could make the longest putt. The two most exciting holes were sponsored by Kuni Honda with two-year leases on shiny new Hondas offered to anyone sinking a hole-in-one. Unfortunately for the players of this tournament, the cars were driven back to Kuni Honda on Arapahoe without the promise of new owners. While not a prize hole, Hole 9 provided a fun twist with players switching out their golf ball for a croquette ball and mallet for their putt.

Refreshment on the hot day was welcomed from the ever-present snack carts, sponsored by Colorado Technical University (CTU). Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers was also a hero handing out vanilla/chocolate swirl frozen custard to players on the course. There was a father/son as well as a father/daughter team on the course, a first for the Chamber classic. Ken Bacon of Littleton Adventist Hospital was joined by his son Paul, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Champion Academy and Soleil Worthy, an Overland High School student, joined her father Shawn Worthy of Metropolitan State College for the day.



At the end of the day, the players gathered in the beautiful ballroom inside the clubhouse for cocktails and camaraderie as well as to place their bids for the wide variety of items offered at the silent auction. Everything from hotel stays at the Denver Marriott South, foursomes at several



South Suburban Golf Courses as well as a foursome at the hosting Heritage Eagle Bend course, martial arts and combat fitness training from ATA Martial Arts and breakfast gift cards at Egg & I and Snooze to Monkey Business burritos and wine classes at Indulge Wine Bar. Za Zen Spa donated popular massage and facial certificates, bowling at Celebrity Lanes and Cybertary offered virtual assistant services. The Chamber thanks all who donated items for the silent auction.

The traditional 19th Hole Gourmet dinner, hosted again this year by CTU, was a delightful way to end a spectacular day. Cheryl Braunschweiger, Chamber board member and owner of ALMC Mortgage, welcomed everyone to the dinner. “It’s great to network and do business with one another at formal networking events but we want to do business with people we know, like and trust – and what better way to get to know someone than at a golf tournament? The Chamber’s culture of relationship building is unique and so much more personal than the other transactional organizations that are out there. This fact is very much appreciated and valued by the Investors.”

Mark Pieffer, President of CTU Denver Campuses, also welcomed the group on behalf of CTU’s 32,000 students worldwide as well as their great work with the Wounded Warrior project, awarding 100 scholarships to wounded veterans, and 50 scholarships to 50 spouses of wounded vets over the past 4 years.

The Italian buffet featured Caesar and Caprese salad, Stromboli, and steaming meatballs with marinara. Plates piled high with Italian fare everyone waited with anticipation for the winners of the day to be announced. The day’s winners were honored with trophies. Beginning with the competition holes Bo Vickers of Jewell Insurance won the men’s longest drive contest while the ladies longest drive was whacked by Christina Kelly of Belco Credit Union. Dan Maas of Littleton Public Schools made the day’s longest putt and 1<sup>st</sup> Bank of Arapahoe County’s Tom Ashley made in closest to the pin on hole #15.



A hush came over the room as the team winners were announced. A tie initially, the close-fought 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to the Pinnacle / Jewell Insurance team with Jevin Terry, John Wilt, Bo Vickers and Johana Mendoza. Their better back 9 score is what sealed the 2<sup>nd</sup> place position for The

Littleton Adventist Hospital team with Ken Bacon, Paul Bacon, Johnny Ordelleide, and Scott Ryan. And finally a round of applause for the first place team was from First Bank - Arapahoe County with golfers, Dave Mittan, Murray Platt, Tom Ashley and Matt Call.

Chamber Board Chair for 2011-2012, Ken Bacon of Littleton Adventist Hospital best expressed what the Chamber's "Best" Golf Classic is all about. "This event is always a great opportunity to talk with many people I know, as well as meeting many for the first time. The Chamber has an outstanding group of Investors as well as staff who put on great events and I always appreciate the friendly atmosphere."



Darin Overstreet of Overstreet Photography took fantastic photos of the event... see these photos at:  
<http://overst.zenfolio.com/110819smdccgolf>