

inside line

Retired pitcher Steve Carlton helps The Legends charity golf tournament sell out

Posted: 08/14/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

By Joanne Davidson
The Denver Post



Jim White, left, is the manager of community services for Volunteers of America; Susan Kiely kept the Players Party auction rolling at a lively pace; and KOSI's Murphy Huston was master of ceremonies. (David Zalubowski, Special to The Denver Post)

There are many good reasons for the charity-minded golfer to choose The Legends tournament:

With a minimum per-player entry of \$1,250 and sold-out with a waiting list crowd, it raises a lot of money for Volunteers of America; it's played at Sanctuary, one of the nation's most beautiful, challenging and exclusive courses; and one lucky foursome will include a big name from the world of baseball.

Baseball?

Major league baseball likes Volunteers of America, and every year since its start nine years ago, the Colorado Rockies Charity Fund has helped pave the way for VOA to have a special guest. This year's VIP was 1994 Baseball Hall of Fame inductee **Steve Carlton**, who attended both the tournament and the Players

Party that's held the night before at the Denver ChopHouse.

Carlton, the first pitcher to win four Cy Young Awards and the last National League pitcher to win 25 or more games in one season, didn't have as far to come as last year's guest, former Rockies first baseman **Andres Galarraga**, who lives in Florida. Carlton lives in Durango, where he says he is content to grow spinach and "live totally in the present, not the past."

The left-hander sure could pitch, but what about his golfing skills?

"I've played in tournaments before, and it wasn't pretty," Carlton said.

The 2011 tournament was organized by CoBiz Insurance chairman and VOA board member **John Milek**; **Lee Earnhart**, owner of Chambers Wine and Liquors; and **Gregg Stiff**, national sales manager for the J.M. Smucker Co.

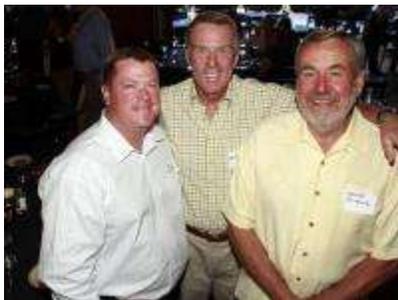
Earnhart is one of VOA's most dedicated fundraisers. He raised \$5,000 for the charity by getting friends to donate in honor of the annual bicycle ride he makes from Denver to Lake Powell. He netted an additional \$5,000 by inviting customers to take their best shot at dropping him into a dunk tank during a Fourth of July promotion at his liquor store.

Tournament coordinator **Denise Robert** said this was the second consecutive sellout for The Legends. "Even with adding an extra foursome, we still had a waiting list. We are so appreciative to (Re/Max founders) **Dave** and **Gail Liniger** for making Sanctuary available to us. Every golfer wants to play there, but not everyone can."

Those at the Players Party included **Jane McAtee** of Southwest Airlines; CoBiz chief operating officer **Richard Dalton**; **Thom White** of Rocky Mountain Bottle Co.; **Mike Passmore**; **Linda** and **T Tafoya**; **Jane Prancan**; **Ron Hall** of K-M Concessions; Integer Group chairman **Jeremy Pagden**; and VOA-Colorado president **Dianna Kunz**.

Joanne Davidson: 303-809-1314 or jdavidson@denverpost.com;

also, blogs.denverpost.com/davidson and GetItWrite on Twitter



Above, golfers Rob McCallum, left, Bill McCallum and Wayne Gluesing. (David Zalubowski, Special to The Denver Post)



Four-time Cy Young Award winner Steve Carlton, second from left, with tournament chairs John Milek, Lee Earnhart and Greg Stiff. (David Zalubowski, Special to The Denver Post)