

Ladies First, Please

By Larry Feldman

Talk about keeping good company.

When a good friend and a great publicist, Marcia Robbins, calls me periodically to cover an event, I usually never have to ask if it's going to be a good story. She knows better than to waste my column with riff-raff.

But, when she told me the charity golf tournament she was promoting was strictly for women, I figured she had lost her mind. Make no mistake, I have nothing but admiration, respect and support for the female golfers of the world. It's just that a hit-and-giggle tournament with a field of women golfers with no real ability just didn't seem that appealing.

Boy (sorry), was I wrong. That old adage of never judge a book by its cover certainly applied in this case.

That's because the women in this field of 36 for the inaugural Ladies First Celebrity Golf Classic at La Costa Resort & Spa included the likes of Geena Davis, Tea Leoni, Tanya Roberts, Pam Shriver, Lisa Fernandez, Brandi Chastain (still trying to figure out if she was wearing the infamous World Cup sports bra), and LPGA stars Kelli Kuehne and Emilee Klein.

And, best of all, it helped celebrate women and raise funds for the Women's Sports Foundation's GoGirlGo! Initiative.

"GoGirlGo! is the Players' Association's charity of choice," according to U.S. Soccer Team Captain Julie Foudy, whose organization served as hosts of this worthwhile event. "Because all of us on the U.S. Women's National Team have benefited from Title IX and the precedents set by great women like Billie Jean King, we were really excited to host this event to benefit the Foundation."

But, when Foudy and her teammates charted their course to stage such an event, they knew they



Fitness guru Kathy Smith lining up a putt

had to lure some of Hollywood's elite to the first tee to make the event top-notch and fun for everyone.

Geena Davis, who needs no introduction, was happy to oblige. "I was so excited when I heard of this great event to benefit GoGirlGo!" said Davis, Oscar-winning actress and Trustee of the Women's Sports Foundation. "It expands the presence of the GoGirlGo! program and makes it easy for our many Hollywood supporters to pitch in."

Donna Lopiano, CEO of the Women's Sports Foundation added, "We have been hosting our annual New York City fundraiser for more than 25 years. The fact that the women of the U.S. National Soccer Team have stepped up to provide us with this signature West Coast event is another step forward for our efforts."

Founded in 1974 by Billie Jean King, the Women's Sports Foundation is a charitable educational organization dedicated to advancing the lives of girls and women through sports and fitness. The Foundation's Participation, Education, Advocacy, Research and Leadership programs are made possible by individual and corporate contributions. The Foundation is located in Nassau County, N.Y. For more information, please call the Foundation at 800-227-3988 or visit www.WomensSportsFoundation.org or AOL Keyword: WSF. For more information about GoGirlGo, visit www.gogirlgo.com. And, for more information on Ladies First, visit www.LadiesFirstGolf.com or call (310) 826-2839.

So, while the tournament was clearly hit-and-giggle, and most of that was giggle, the event put me exactly where I've longed to be all my life...in a room full of 36 women!



Soccer stars Christie Rampone, Carli Overbeck, Siri Mullinix
Photo by Pat Krause

Los Angeles • Orange County • San Diego • Palm Springs • Inland Empire • Ventura • Santa Barbara
VOL. 8 NO. 4 • APRIL 2005 • FREE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF

NEWS