

THE CHIPPER JONES

Celebrity Golf Invitational Article

The **Chipper Jones** Celebrity Golf Invitational Nov. 10 at Bear's Best Atlanta Golf Course was a huge success, raising money for the Chipper Jones Family Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis, Stetson University and Camp Twin Lakes. The two-day event started Nov. 9 with dinner, entertainment and a live auction. Comedian **Jeff Foxworthy** provided the entertainment, tailoring many of his jokes to the people in the crowd.

After the laughs, the lively auction raised of \$90,000, almost doubling the 2002 take! One persistent bidder was **Kris Einstein** of tournament sponsor Georgia Jet. Einstein spent over \$12,000 and ended up with an array of items including a charter jet trip for eight. A guitar autographed by country singer **Mark Wills** was purchased by Jones, who was offered a trade of 10 hours of airtime on a charter jet, a deal he quickly accepted!

The next morning golfers began arriving at the course around 10:30 to warm up on the driving range. Although unable to participate in the tournament, **John Smoltz** showed up to lend his support to his teammates. After watching pitcher **Paul Byrd** take his practice swings, Smoltz sprang into action, offering a quick tutorial. The golfers were split into foursomes with a special guest celebrity to round it out to a 5-person scramble, playing the best ball.

Besides the host, celebrity golfers included **Mark DeRosa**, Byrd, **Glenn Hubbard**, and minor leaguers **Macay McBride** and **Brian McCann**. Former Braves **Brad Clontz**, **Tom Glavine**, **Mark Lemke**, **Greg McMichael** and **Damian Moss** also played, as did bullpen catcher **Mark Mortimer** and **Alan Butts**, Braves baseball systems operator.

Also participating were former coaches **Jim Donnan** (University of Georgia football) and **Bobby Cremins** (Georgia Tech basketball), PGA golfer **Jason Bones**, Team USA fast-pitch softball pitcher **Jennie Finch**, and country singer **Mark Wills**. The winning fivesome was helped in no small part to the excellent putting of Lemke.

Each member of the winning team received a set of Mizuno irons. Former Braves southpaw **Damian Moss** hit the longest drive of the day, estimated at 375 yards. Moss, who finished the season with the Baltimore Orioles after the Braves traded him so San Francisco, won a Mizuno driver for his efforts. All celebrity participants received Mizuno golf gloves autographed by the host of the event...