

For Immediate Release
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DON STROCK DIABETES CLASSIC SUCCEEDS DESPITE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES
Loyal committee and sponsors raised another \$160,000 for Diabetes Research Institute

On May 13, approximately 160 golfers attended the 26th annual **Don Strock Diabetes Classic**, presented by Miami Seaquarium and held at Miccosukee Golf and Country Club. After last year's silver anniversary event raised cumulative proceeds to \$2 million, loyal sponsors and committee members struggled through less than ideal economic conditions this year to garner nearly \$160,000 more for the cure-focused work underway at the **Diabetes Research Institute (DRI)**.

"Diabetes doesn't know about the economy," Tournament Host **Don Strock** said in a crowded dining room, following a beautiful day on the course. "And the fact that we are all here tonight shows that we have a good reason to be. The DRI is getting closer and closer to the cure, and eventually we will have closure on this terrible disease."

Strock showed his appreciation to the sports celebrities in attendance, including current Dolphins player **John Denney** and former NFL players **Glenn Blackwood, Harvey Clayton, Mark Dennard, Troy Drayton, Bobby Harden, Eddie Hill, Terry Kirby, Larry Little, George Mira, Tony Nathan, Mike Williams**, and **Shawn Wooden**, plus radio's **Froggy and Footy**.

Other VIPs, generous sponsors, were also given due thanks. These local and national businesses, many of which are from the produce industry and many of which have shown the committee support year after year are: **Miami Seaquarium, Miccosukee Resort and Gaming, Miccosukee Championship, C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc., The Produce Connection, American Fruit & Produce Corp., Baker Concrete Construction, M&R Produce Distributors, Six L's Packing Company, Next-Port Inc., Sierra Produce, Sunkist, Modern Farms Mushrooms, The Oppenheimer Group, Taylor Farms, Tropical Shipping, Freedom Fresh, Capital Produce Distributors, Gravier and Associates, Warren Henry Automobiles, Inc., Outback Steakhouse, Minuteman Press Of Boca Raton, Gold Coast Beverage Distributors, Coca-Cola, Crystal Springs, and Von Kantor Photography.**

Barbara Singer, a member of one of the five founding families of the DRI Foundation, took the stage to thank Strock and **Bruce Fishbein**, committee chairperson, for their dedication to the cause ever since the tournament's inception in 1983. Then she invited two children – of the millions who live with type 1 diabetes – to join her on stage.

"I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes six years ago," **Ellie Tamminga**, 15, said. "Then four years ago, my brother, **Reed**, was diagnosed. "One of my biggest fears is that my youngest brother, **Ryan**, will also have the disease. It's no fun. Still, my future is bright, and knowing you are all here is wonderful because you're supporting the DRI, and they will find a cure for us."

"I don't like having diabetes; it sucks," **Matthew Sanchez**, 9, said bluntly. With a smile, he added, "Thank you for golfing today because it is making my dream come true!"

Inspired by the children's sentiments and encouraged by Strock, who served as auctioneer as usual, guests bid generously in the silent and live auctions. Some of the popular sports memorabilia included: a helmet autographed by Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt, Jr., and all other participants of the recent Russ Friedman 400 NASCAR Spring Cup Series Race; and footballs signed by Dan Marino, Chad Pennington, Adrian Peterson and Joey Porter, respectively. Vacation packages, jewelry, gift certificates and more rounded out the array of prizes.

The mission of the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation is to provide the Diabetes Research Institute with the funding necessary to cure diabetes *now*. The Diabetes Research Institute, a center of excellence at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, is a recognized world leader in cure-focused research. Since its inception in the early 1970s, the DRI has made significant contributions to the field of diabetes research, pioneering many of the techniques used in islet transplantation. The DRI is now building upon these achievements by bridging cell-based therapies with emerging technologies to restore insulin production. For the millions of families already affected by diabetes, the Diabetes Research Institute is the best hope for a cure. Visit www.DiabetesResearch.org or call 800-321-3437 for more information.

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all celebs.jpg

Several former and current Dolphins football players, as well as other local celebrities, participated in the 26th annual Don Strock Diabetes Classic in support of Tournament Host **Don Strock** and Chairman **Bruce Fishbein** (both far right). Pictured with a character from Miami Seaquarium, presenting sponsor, are (l-r): **Terry Kirby**, **Froggy** (Horace Scot Langley) and **Footy** (John Kross) from Y-100, **Tony Nathan**, **John Denney**, **Bobby Harden**, **George Mira**, **Troy Drayton**, **Harvey Clayton**, **Glenn Blackwood**, **Eddie Hill**, **Mike Williams**, **Shawn Wooden**, and **Mark Dennard**.

Committee.jpg – The 26th annual Don Strock Diabetes Classic committee included: back (l-r) Chris Fries, Gil Decker, Adam Homan, Bruce Schumin, and Dave Evans; front (l-r) Herb Yamamura, Rene Guim, Mary Beth Fishbein, Alex Gravier, and Bruce Fishbein; not pictured Strock, Jeff Pfaff, Dr. Floyd Seskin, Doug Tannehill, Joe Vega, and Eric Weiss.

Barbara Don Check.jpg

Following the 26th annual Don Strock Diabetes Classic, Tournament Host Don Strock presented a check to Diabetes Research Institute Foundation's Barbara Singer

Arthur Bruce dolphin.jpg

Arthur Hertz, owner of Miami Seaquarium, presenting sponsor, and Chairperson Bruce Fishbein with a Miami Seaquarium character

Other sponsors.jpg

Standing (l-r): **Terry Willie**, Miccosukee Resort & Gaming and Miccosukee Championship, **Mark Wucher**, Legal-eze; **Mike Orr**, Minuteman Press of Boca Raton; **Tim Johnson**, Mutual of America; **Jules Greaux**, Tropical Shipping; **Everett Miller**, Taylor Farms of Florida; and **Mitch Brandfon**, Modern Farms Mushrooms. Seated: **Alex Gravier**, Gravier and Associates; **Robert Netkin**, Next-Port, Inc.; **Adam Homan**, Six L's Packing Company; **Bruce Schumin**, M & R Produce Distributors; **Morris Corbitt**, The Produce Connection; and **Herb Gardner**, C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc. Not pictured are representatives of American Fruit & Produce Corp., Baker Concrete Construction, Sierra Produce, Sunkist, The Oppenheimer Group, Freedom Fresh, Capital Produce Distributors, Warren Henry Automobiles, Inc., Outback Steakhouse, Gold Coast Beverage Distributors, Coca-Cola, Crystal Springs, and Von Kantor Photography.

Tamminga Sanchez.jpg

Dinner program speakers Ellie Tamminga and Matthew Sanchez with Ryan Tamminga (front)