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Conine All-Star Golf Classic proceeds to help families stay with sick children

By KARI BARNETT



Alan Rutner and Jeff Conine jumped in a golf cart to get the 26th annual Conine All-Star Golf Classic underway. (Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital/Courtesy)

You know their names from Major League Baseball and the National Football League, but these sports stars recently were seen on the green with a golf club in

hand preparing to putt.

Ivan “Pudge” Rodriguez, Ki-Jana Carter, Tony Nathan, Gaby Sanchez, Bob Brudzinski and Luis Alicea, among other sports celebrities, took part in the 26th annual Conine All-Star Golf Classic, raising \$262,000 to underwrite expenses at the [Conine Clubhouse at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital](#) in Hollywood.

Taking place at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club, this was the ninth year in a row the tournament sold out, welcoming 144 players in foursomes and individual spots, according to organizers.

Former Florida Marlins player Jeff Conine (1993-97 and 2003-05) and his wife Cindy started the tournament in 1995 and it has raised nearly \$7 million since then for the clubhouse, which is a hotel-like facility that provides free lodging to parents and siblings during a child’s hospital stay, helping over 12,000 families stay close to their sick children.

The hospital has 26 licensed beds, seven operating rooms, an entire pediatric oncology floor and is a level one pediatric trauma center.

The [Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital Foundation](#) raises funds to assist patients, families and underwrite programs, facilities and equipment that support the pediatric facility’s mission, according to the hospital.

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