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**FORMER NBA STAR CHRIS DUDLEY'S CELEBRITY POKER TOURNAMENT  
RAISES \$150,000 FOR HIS FOUNDATION FOR KIDS WITH DIABETES**

*The former NBA star's celebrity gala draws Hollywood stars and pro athletes for a major benefit*

Portland, Oregon – Last night, Chris Dudley, a 16-year NBA veteran, hosted *Portland's Who's Who Night Out* featuring a Celebrity Texas Hold Em tournament, as a benefit for The Chris Dudley Foundation dedicated to supporting children with diabetes. The event, held Thursday, November 18 at award-winning *Oba!* restaurant in Portland's Pearl District, drew more than 15 celebrities including actor Kevin Kline, World Poker Tour player Annie Duke and NBA Hall of Famer Clyde Drexler among others. The evening raised \$150,000 for the Chris Dudley Foundation.

Corporate sponsors competed with celebrities in the Texas Hold Em tournament. The winner was Portland native Mitch Rask, 33, a financial advisor part of the Jeff Parker Development group. Rask wins a one-year lease on a 2005 BMW 300 convertible compliments of Rasmussen BMW.

Celebrities in attendance included Academy Award-winning actor Kevin Kline, actress/comedian Kathy Griffin (who onsite was shooting her new reality TV show, *The D-List*, coming soon on *Bravo*), actress/Broadway star Ricki Lake, *NYPD Blue*'s Currie Graham, actor Josh Charles, actress Erin Carufel, World Poker Tour player Annie Duke, NBA Coaches Maurice Cheeks and Terry Porter, Hall of Famer Clyde Drexler, former NBA star Scottie Pippen, Hollywood screenwriter Mike Rich, and the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers' Damon Stoudamire, Sebastian Telfair and Theo Ratliff and former NBA player Frank Brickowski.

The star-studded event featured a Texas Hold 'Em tournament, an extravagant silent auction and raffle, Veuve Clicquot Champagne raffle, live music by jazz singer Barbara Lusch, chances to win Gari jewelry valued at up to \$150,000 and models wearing gowns by Michelle DeCourcy and Gari jewelry to get into the holiday season. Jennifer Huewe of Lake Oswego won Gari chandelier earrings valued at \$5,000.

"We were so thrilled to have the support of so many corporations and celebrities to raise funds for my foundation, which will in turn, provide educational resources, programs and research for children with diabetes. The money we raised will make a big difference in a lot of kids' lives," said Dudley.

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Many sponsors worked to make the event a success for The Dudley Foundation including Crown Royal, Rasmussen BMW, Oba! Restaurant, Veuve Clicquot Champagne, Gari Jewelry, Nike, Haute florist, HairM salon, Northwest Quality Homes, Countrywide Home Loans, Lucky Limo, McDonald Financial Group, Page One, Sports Medicine Oregon, Sunset Mortgage, The Hasson Company Realtors, Fidelity National Title of Oregon, American Medical Concepts, Inc., Gerding/Edlen Development Company, Michelle DeCourcy, Portland Monthly, Component Design Network, Mt. Hood Beverage, Tom James, Yoshida's Fine Art Gallery, Chef George Brown, EI, SJ Harmon Photography, Sylvie Day Spa, Wells Fargo, Harnish Properties & Travis Olson for First Horizon Home Loans.

Many companies also contributed to celebrity gift bags which were an added value of over \$2,000. Donors include: Callaway Golf ([www.callawaygolf.com](http://www.callawaygolf.com)), Starbucks ([www.starbucks.com](http://www.starbucks.com)), Spa Finder ([www.spafinder.com](http://www.spafinder.com)), Rich's Cigars ([www.richscigar.com](http://www.richscigar.com)), Harrison ([www.harrisonrestaurant.net](http://www.harrisonrestaurant.net)), Cigar Aficionado ([www.cigaraficionado.com](http://www.cigaraficionado.com)), Mt. Hood Beverage ([mthoodbeverage.com](http://mthoodbeverage.com)), Component Design Network, Jeanne Johngren Design ([www.jeannejohngren.com](http://www.jeannejohngren.com)), South Beach Diet ([www.southbeachdiet.com](http://www.southbeachdiet.com)), b.pure ([www.bpurebody.com](http://www.bpurebody.com)), Verdun Chocolates ([www.verdunchocolate.com](http://www.verdunchocolate.com)), Nike ([www.nike.com](http://www.nike.com)), HairM ([www.hairmgrooming.com](http://www.hairmgrooming.com)), Pearl District Business Association ([www.shopthepearl.com](http://www.shopthepearl.com)), Made In Oregon ([www.madeinoregon.com](http://www.madeinoregon.com)), Plantronics ([www.plantronics.com](http://www.plantronics.com)), Portland Monthly ([www.portland-monthly.com](http://www.portland-monthly.com)), Crown Royal ([www.crownroyal.com](http://www.crownroyal.com)), Ike Behar ([www.ikebehar.com](http://www.ikebehar.com)), Kookoon ([www.kookoon.com](http://www.kookoon.com)), Fan Club Member ([www.fanclubmember.com](http://www.fanclubmember.com)), General Cigar Company ([www.cigarworld.com](http://www.cigarworld.com)) and The Grand Papery. Assistance in securing some items was provided by Jewels and Pinstripes ([www.jewelsandpinstripes.com](http://www.jewelsandpinstripes.com)).

### **About Chris Dudley**

Diagnosed at age 16 with Type 1 diabetes, Dudley overcame the odds to become a professional athlete. He started The Dudley Foundation in 1994 and designed a basketball camp for youth with juvenile diabetes that has operated in Vernonia, Ore for the past eight years. Including a \$100,000 donation to Yale in 1996 to create an endowment to help fund the school's basketball program, Dudley has donated more than \$1 million to charity. For his efforts, Dudley received the NBA's J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award in 1996 and *USA Today's* Most Caring Athlete Award in 1997 among other honors. Visit [www.chrisdudley.org](http://www.chrisdudley.org).

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