

For Immediate Release
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DON STROCK AND DAN MARINO CELEBRATE A SILVER ANNIVERSARY
Don Strock Diabetes Classic raises \$2 million for Diabetes Research Institute.

In celebration of a silver anniversary, **Don Strock, Dan Marino**, and more than a dozen other past and present pro-athletes participated in the **25th Annual Don Strock Diabetes Classic** on May 14. The popular event, presented by Miami Seaquarium, attracted 175 golfers to **Miccosukee Golf and Country Club**. Benefiting the **Diabetes Research Institute (DRI)**, the tournament raised more than \$175,000 this year, pushing cumulative event proceeds above \$2 million.

“Dan Marino was a rookie the first year we had this tournament,” Strock quipped. “That gives you some perspective on just how long we’ve been doing this.”

After enjoying perfect weather on the course, the spirited group tackled cocktails and dinner, plus live and silent auctions. When seven special guests took the stage, silence overcame the noisy dining room.

“I pray every night that the great doctors at the DRI will find a cure so the I don’t have to test my blood sugar and take insulin shots,” said 12-year-old Armand Guim, whose father, committee member Rene Guim, participated in the event even prior to his son’s diabetes diagnosis.

“My little brother is a hero,” said Emilio Lamar, Jr., age 13, speaking of 11-year-old Felipe, who has type 1 diabetes. “He has to be much more responsible than other kids. And he never complains.”

With maturity beyond their nine years, Brooke Miller displayed the bulky diabetes-related contents of her purse and Hunter Cope explained how her diabetes dog and constant companion, Diva, senses when her blood sugar is too high or too low and then alerts one of her family members. Brooke’s mother, Lynette Miller, shared further examples of how the disease affects the whole family.

Matthew Sanchez and Ellie Tamminga also addressed the teary-eyed crowd, and the universal hope of all children with diabetes was summed up in ten words: “My dream is just to be a regular kid again.”

“You’ve just heard firsthand the reason for this tournament,” said Barbara Singer of the DRI Foundation. “With our help, these kids can look forward to a future free from diabetes.”

Strock thanked Marino and the other sports celebrities who joined him on the course, including: **Dwight Stephenson, Nat Moore, Jim Jensen, Larry Little, Don McNeal, George Mira, Kim Bokamper, Harvey Clayton, Tony Fiorentino, Eddie Hill, Quadtrine Hill, Ricky Jackson, John Harris, and Twan Russell.**

Chairperson **Bruce Fishbein** thanked the sponsors, many of which are part of the produce industry, and many of which sign on year-after-year. The local and national businesses that showed Fishbein's committee support this year were: **Miami Seaquarium, Miccosukee Resort and Gaming, C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc., The Produce Connection, M&R Produce Distributors, Six L's Packing Company, Miccosukee Championship, Sierra Produce, American Fruit & Produce Corp., Top Tomato Company, Florida Mushroom, Inc., The Oppenheimer Group, Freedom Fresh, Uro-Club, Taylor Farms, Tropical Shipping, Capital Produce Distributors, Sheds Plus, Warren Henry Automobiles, Inc., Outback Steakhouse, Minuteman Press Of Boca Raton, Heineken USA, Coca-Cola, Crystal Springs, and Von Kantor Photography.**

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. From innovations in islet isolation and transplant procedures to advances in cell biology and immunology, the DRI is now harnessing the power of emerging technologies to develop new cell-based therapies to restore insulin production. For the millions of families already affected by diabetes who are looking to the world of science for answers, the Diabetes Research Institute is the best hope for a cure. To learn more about the DRI visit www.diabetesresearch.org or call the DRI Foundation at 800-321-3437.

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