

Boose event growing up on 11th birthday

By Mike Brohard | © 2011 Loveland Reporter-Herald

As tournament director Jon Messick points out, events such as the Debbie Boose Memorial Tennis Tournament rarely have a long shelf life.

Yet with the Boose celebrating its 11th year when play begins today at the North Lake Park courts, there is very little surprise from Messick, or even Kim Mueller over at Pathways Hospice, the organization that benefits most.

“We see a lot of the same players every year, and I even see a few new names this time,” Messick said of the event that runs through Sunday at the North Lake Park courts. “Eleven years for a charity-type tournament is a long time.”

Nancy Hauser’s name has been on the list every year, and the same goes for her daughters, Kelly Blanks and Erin Roe-Hauser. Erin’s husband, Nick, is a regular, as has been his mom, Nancy.

“It’s just a good, local, social tournament,” Hauser said. “It’s a fun time. We know a lot of people. I don’t do tournaments other than this one.”

She knows others just like her who make sure to set aside the time to play in this event. Part of the draw is the Boose family and Debbie herself.

“I look forward to it,” Hauser said. “I think that’s the draw for a lot of us, and I think a lot of it is to show support for the (Boose) family.”

Numbers are down about 50 entrants from last year’s record numbers (265), but Messick points out that is more than double the turnout for the recently played Northern Colorado Open. Pathways Hospice should still benefit greatly from the support. Mueller, the marketing and outreach director, said the tournament remains the group’s top fundraiser each year, and it has brought in \$335,000 the past 10 years for the care center at McKee.

The past two years, the tournament has had run-ins with stormy weather, but the 10-day forecast looks good. Still, Mueller said contingency plans have been made to make sure certain parts of the tournament carry on as normal.

As is tradition with the Boose, a dinner is planned for Friday night (5:30 p.m.) at the courts, catered by Carrabba’s. It is free to players and those 6-younger, \$5 for spectators. That same night, a pro-level exhibition will be played, starting at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, the Quickstart tennis program for youngsters 4-10 will run from 10-11:30 a.m. Rain washed it out last year, but like the dinner, both will be moved indoors to Loveland High if rains come.

A wheelchair exhibition is slated for noon Saturday, and the finals for the tournament will be held Sunday, with a continental breakfast.