

# Golf tournament has distinct hockey flavor

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By Theresa Kirkpatrick  
of The StarPhoenix

Brian Skrudland of the Calgary Flames got his Father's Day present a little early.

His daughter, Rudi Tate, was born to him and his wife, Lana, on Thursday in Calgary. To celebrate, he did what any new father would do. He came to Saskatoon for a golf tournament.

It wasn't just any golf tournament, you understand, but the Saskatchewan Automobile Dealers Association Celebrity Golf Classic — held annually in support of one of Skrudland's favorite charities, Saskatchewan Special Olympics.

"They're special guys and it's a real treat to be looked up at," he said. "I'm not going to be a professional hockey player forever and I want to contribute as much as I can while I'm still playing because when I'm not, I may not be looked at in the same light.

"I've got some time now and I want to contribute."

Skrudland isn't alone. The lineup for the Classic, which starts at 8 a.m. today at the Willows, includes the Flames' Brent Ashton and Trent Yawney, Detroit Red Wings' Mike Sillinger and Tim Cheveldae, Brad McCrimmon (now of the Hartford Whalers), Curtis Les-

chyshyn of the Quebec Nordiques, along with NHL officials Mark Wheler and Mick McGeough and minor leaguers Perry Gancher (Cleveland Lumberjacks), Kevin Kaminski (Halifax Citadels), Marc Habscheid (Las Vegas Thunder), Jamie Heward (Cleveland Lumberjacks), Kerri Clarke and David Struch (Salt Lake Golden Eagles) and Saskatoon Blades coach Lorne Molleken.

"I have all sorts of respect for these people," said Cheveldae. "They make life so simple. They just enjoy all the little things in life and sometimes as an athlete, you get too caught up in things.

Then, you look at them and see how happy they are, just playing a game, just competing, it really makes you appreciate what you do have.

"They appreciate every minute to the fullest and we can really learn something from them."

Over the past seven years, SADA has raised about \$150,000 for the Saskatchewan Special Olympics through the tournament and the charity auction.

Items up for auction at this year's event include jerseys from the NHL stars in attendance as well as that of Wayne Gretzky, Teemu Selanne and Steve Yzerman.