

Sports nut gets opportunity to meet many of his heroes at annual Kinsmen dinner

By Paul Spasoff
of The StarPhoenix

Brad Munro is a confessed sports nut and he doesn't care who knows.

Munro, chair of the 1993 Kinsmen Sports Celebrity Dinner, has had his heart set on the position for quite awhile.

"This is the one project the Kinsmen knew I wanted to head because, when you're chairman, you get to bring in the speakers," he said.

Munro felt this would be an excellent opportunity to meet his heroes. Therefore, it's no surprise that former NFL quarterback Ken Stabler is one of the celebrities.

He would have liked all his sporting favorites to attend the dinner, but that is financially impossible. The dinner committee has a limited budget to pay honorariums and travel expenses.

The budget for speakers is \$35,000, not including travel and accommodation.

Although he has been involved with the Kinsmen club for nine years, the amount of work involved in organizing the dinner still came as a surprise to Munro.

"It sure is a lot more than I ever imagined it would be."

In addition to arranging the speakers, some of Munro's duties include setting prices, organizing dinner events and picking a committee.

But he will have plenty of help. All 49 members of the Saskatoon Kinsmen Club are required to work at the dinner



Munro



"It's our most intense evening, as we try to make sure everyone gets first-class treatment," said Munro.

As the dinner approaches, the long hours of preparation turn into nervous anticipation.

"When I think about it, I start to sweat and think, what if nobody comes?"

Although this is highly unlikely, Munro expects ticket sales to be down from last year. He expects attendance to be somewhere between 700 and 800 because of an increase in prices and the recession.

Money raised at the dinner will go to many worthwhile causes. The Special Olympics, YWCA, and the Boy Scouts of Canada are some of the over 70 groups that will benefit.

The bulk of the money comes from a silent auction, raffle and bar sales.

People have been willing to donate articles to the auction because they believe it's a worthwhile cause, said Munro.

But if that were to ever change, the dinner would not survive.

"I worry about its future, because speakers are getting more expensive and you can't keep raising the price of tickets," he said.

Munro really has enjoyed the time he has spent as chair of the dinner and feels it has been a benefit to him.

"It's been one hell of an experience for me, and I believe I am a better man for it."