

Star-studded poker party touts hot Scottsdale property

By Kathy Shayna Shocket
SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC

Many real estate agents and homeowners in the Northeast Valley who enjoyed the recent frenzy of homes selling within hours now have to pitch their products. So batter up!

Real estate agents Erika Moore and Tracie Bonds, for example, teamed with Scottsdale loan officer Jeff Geller for a home run of sorts.

Not only did they get unusual exposure for a \$3.6 million home for sale in north Scottsdale, but people paid \$500 per person to get inside.

That was the price to mingle and play poker with Barry Bonds and his famous friends, along with an opportunity for real estate agents to showcase the sprawling 6,000-square-foot abode in a relaxed setting. Not to mention the money raised for the Metropolitan Junior Baseball League in honor of the Bobby Bonds Sr. Symposium.

Although the red-hot real estate market has cooled, homes in north Scottsdale have held their values better than those in other parts of the country.

"I remember when these lots were sitting on the market about eight years ago selling for \$128,000 and not that many people were in-



Olympic Champion Dan O'Brien, Tempe businessman Randy Ying, Giants Superstar Barry Bonds, and former Diamondback turned Giant Russ Ortiz await the next card.

terested," Geller said. "Now this house is sitting on one of those lots selling for \$3.6 million."

On Sunday, multimillionaires were enjoying themselves amid the hom-

ey fireplace, outdoor patio and designer kitchen. At the same time, those such as Scottsdale divorce attorney Robert Howard had the chance to play poker at Gary Mat-



Kim Brooks of Security Title smiles as she stacks her chips. Kim beat Barry Bonds to win Aces 4 Bases.

thews Jr.'s table. Matthews, the talented baseball player who recently signed a five-year, \$50 million contract with the Los Angeles Angels, apparently isn't as skilled at poker. He was knocked out of the tournament before he could get to the final table.

A silent auction item was the chance to play an extra on *Grey's Anatomy*, *Desperate Housewives* or *CSI*. Bonds bid high for the acting part for his 10-year-old nephew, Trac. But at the last minute Bonds let the acting part "slide" to guest



Aces 4 Bases planners Jeff Geller and Rosemarie Burke with honored host Barry Bonds

Mark Monson for \$6,000.

"Uncle Barry has lots of friends in Hollywood. I'll make a call," he told his nephew, adding that he would rather put the money toward Trac's education.

Kim Brooks of Security Title took first place. She won the sporty first prize to drive a Bentley, Aston Martin or Ferrari for a week. The shiny, red Aston Martin and Ferrari parked at the party on the front yard of the Tuscan-style home also got the attention of neighbors and those passing by. Just another way to toot the horn of the four-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath house with a second-floor home theater.