



## **JOHN TRAVOLTA, KELLY PRESTON AND MORGAN PRESSEL CO-CHAIR COATES GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY R+L CARRIERS GALA**



The inaugural Coates Golf Championship presented by R+L Carriers' Gala was held this evening at Golden Ocala Golf & Equestrian Club in Ocala, Fla. John Travolta, Kelly Preston and Morgan Pressel served as honorary co-chairs for the invitation-only event. At the Gala, Coates Golf presented \$50,000 to both The Jett Travolta Foundation and The Morgan Pressel Foundation. The evening marked the start of the inaugural Coates Golf Championship presented by R+L Carriers as well as the LPGA season, with guests including LPGA professionals, top sponsors, VIPs and Pro-Am participants.

The Coates Golf Championship presented by R+L Carriers tournament week will officially begin tomorrow. Admissions gates for general spectators will open at 7a.m.

Official tournament play will kick off Wednesday, January 28 and continue through Saturday, January 31 at Golden Ocala Golf & Equestrian Club. For tickets and more information, please visit [www.coatesgolfchampionship.com](http://www.coatesgolfchampionship.com).

## Travolta, Pressel charities land donations as tournament week tees off



Attendees greet actors and Marion County residents Kelly Preston and John Travolta Sunday night, Jan. 26, at Golden Ocala for the Coates Golf Opening Night Gala. Randy and Mollie Coates of Coates Golf presented checks for \$50,000 each to the Jett Travolta Foundation and the Morgan Pressel Foundation.

By [Dave Schlenker](#)

In a black-tie gala kicking off the LPGA Coates Golf Championship, hosts Randall and Mollie Coates presented \$50,000 checks to the Jett Travolta Foundation and the Morgan Pressel Foundation Sunday night at Golden Ocala. Actors John Travolta and Kelly Preston, both Marion County residents, accepted their check on behalf of the foundation named for their late son, Jett. The foundation helps children who suffer from autism and seizures.

Pressel, an LPGA golfer, accepted the \$50,000 donation on behalf of her family. She started the foundation to help breast cancer patients eight years ago in honor of her mother, who died of breast cancer 11 years ago.

“I cannot thank the Coates enough,” she said, noting the LPGA is more than golf; it is a caring community “here to change the world.”

“That five-foot putt means nothing when people are out there suffering from illness, suffering from breast cancer,” she added.

Randall Coates offered high praise for Pressel. “One thing about Morgan,” he said during the check presentation, “every hole, she’s ducking under the ropes and hugging kids.”

The checks were presented at the gala opening reception for the Coates Golf Championship, which tees up in Ocala this week. The charity event also was a spirited kickoff off to the LPGA’s first tournament in Ocala.

Travolta and Preston, who have lived in Anthony for about 10 years, talked golf with Pressel and fellow LPGA star Cristie Kerr at the gala.



And Travolta told the 200-plus attendees that this community has been very good to them, and the Coates’ \$50,000 donation to their foundation was yet another reminder why “we love Ocala.”

Thus, he said, he was thrilled to have the LPGA tee up in Ocala — “freakin awesome.”

“Thanks,” Preston said to the LPGA, “for coming to our town.”

Travolta, Preston and Pressel were honorary co-chairs for the gala.

The Coates Golf Championship tournament week starts Monday at Golden Ocala, with LPGA players teeing off Wednesday.