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KEVIN COSTNER

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KC: I can't speak for America, but I think that baseball marks us in a way that makes us even want to debate it...whether it affects us anymore or not. But it's still here. It's a great feeling to take your son or daughter to their first professional game — when you walk out and see these gigantic cathedrals that are now taking on great architectural meaning. These kind of retro fields are really beautiful. I love it. I love to sit down and watch the games.

IM: Have you been to Bank One Ballpark? Are you a Diamondbacks fan?
KC: I've never been to the "BOB," but I like the whole stripe of dirt going down...the retro thing. I'd like to play there.

IM: Is the pool in right field a little difficult to digest for a baseball fan who is more used to, say, Fenway or Yankee Stadium?
KC: (laughs) No. You know, someone's got to live here in the heat to understand that the pool is the way you've got to do things, right? I think it's got its own personality and it's great.

IM: The Diamondbacks have been plagued by injuries lately. What's the worst sports-related injury you've ever suffered?
KC: Well, just before I made *For the Love of the Game*, I tore my meniscus. It wasn't terrible, but I had to have surgery so that I could go out and make that movie. I've been pretty lucky that way.

IM: Who is your favorite baseball player?
KC: Well, one of my favorites was George Brett. I always enjoyed watching him play. I don't want to single out anyone who's playing. I love watching the guys play. I don't follow baseball like I used to. I mean, I used to have all of their pictures up on my wall. I made a canoe once (laughs) — it had all the *Sports Illustrated* covers on it.

IM: Okay, so let's talk golf. Are you a Tommy Bahama or Nike man?
KC: Bahama (points to shirt). This is Bahama right here.

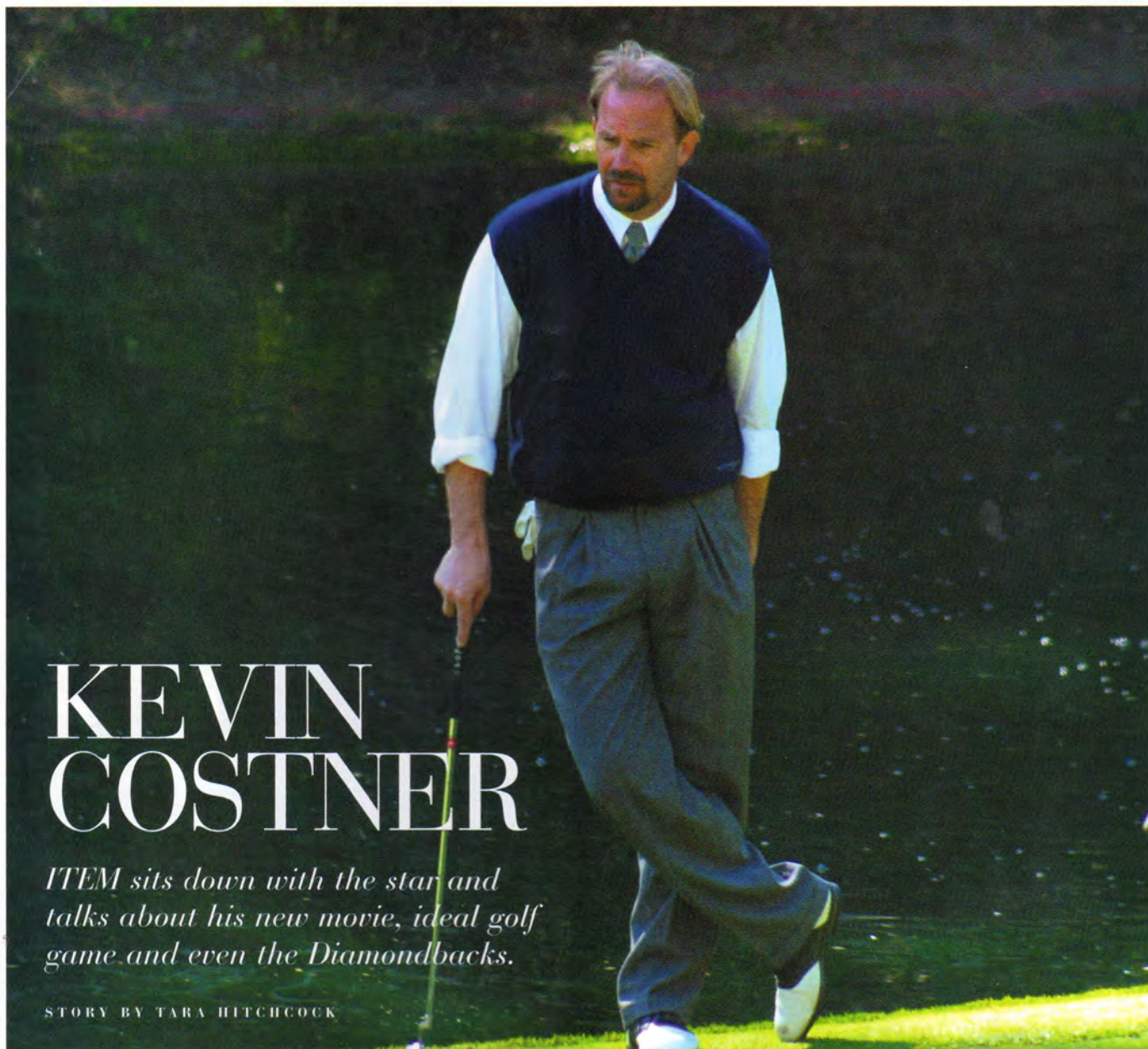
IM: Your dream foursome?
KC: Dream foursome? Oh, my buddies. It wouldn't be professional golfers, it would be my friends.

IM: We sometimes catch you playing in celebrity tournaments — how nerve-wracking is golf for you? Can you brush off a bad shot?
KC: I'm able to overcome. The first tee bothers everybody. I have a tendency, in a tournament, to play better than my handicap, just simply because I get my focus. I don't have the passion for it like my friends do. They have a tendency to play worse in front of a lot of people, but to me, it's like theater.

IM: Do you like it noisy out there? Are you a Phoenix Open kind of guy?
KC: I'd rather play where it's a little noisier. I usually have people clapping when I play...get a little movement thing going (imitates "the wave").

IM: Have women throwing things onto the course...?
KC: (laughs) They can throw whatever they want to out on the course. I'll decide what I pick up.





KEVIN COSTNER

ITEM sits down with the star and talks about his new movie, ideal golf game and even the Diamondbacks.

STORY BY TARA HITCHCOCK

Academy Award-winning director **Kevin Costner** stars in and directs Touchstone Pictures' western *Open Range*. This film, about a group of cattle ranchers fighting to keep the peace on the Western prairies, stars Costner (*Dances With Wolves*, *Wyatt Earp*), **Robert Duvall** (*The Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now*), **Abraham Benrubi** (*Sleepwalkers*, *George of the Jungle*), **Diego Luna** (*Frida*, *Y Tú Mamá También*), **James Russo** (*My Own Private Idaho*, *Donnie Brasco*), **Michael Gambon** (*Gosford Park*, *Sleepy Hollow*) and **Annette Bening** (*American Beauty*, *The Grifters*).

Boss (Duvall), Charley (Costner), Mose (Benrubi) and Buttons (Luna) "free graze" their cattle and mind their own business until a nasty encounter with a corrupt sheriff (Russo) and kingpin rancher (Gambon) forces them to protect the small town of Harmonville. As the showdown looms, Charley's life takes an unexpected turn as he finds himself falling for beautiful Sue (Bening).

Although Costner has starred in such western films as *Wyatt Earp* and *Silverado*, his film genre of choice appears to be sports. He can be seen in many memorable films about baseball, including *Chasing Dreams*, *Bull Durham*, *Field of Dreams* and *For The Love of the Game*; he also starred in *Tin Cup*, playing a struggling golfer attempting to make the pro tour. Outside of film, Costner spends some time on the links and can occasionally be found mingling amongst the celebrities at Pro-Am tournaments.

During a press junket to promote *Open Range*, *ITEM* sat down with Costner in a Sanctuary Camelback Mountain casita to talk about his love of sports.

IM: A recent headline in *USA Today* asked "What's wrong with baseball?" Is baseball still America's favorite pastime?