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THURSDAY
JULY 27, 2006

HOUSTON  CHRONICLE
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■ It's Ryan Star of *Rock Star: Supernova* versus Ryan Starr (with that rockin' extra R) of the first season of *American Idol* at blogs.chron.com/tmi.

FASHION |

ROCKET MAN: Dikembe and Rose Mutombo greet friends at his fundraiser for a hospital in the Congo.

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FREE THROW

Rockets' Mutombo takes center stage at fundraiser

By JOY SEWING
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

IT'S not too often Houstonians roll out the red carpet.

So it was a treat for party goers to watch Houston Rockets center Dikembe Mutombo step into the spotlight for his **Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital fundraiser** at the **Royalton at River Oaks**.

Mutombo with his wife, Rose, and **Carolyn Farb** posed for cameras in the Royalton's lobby before heading to the 32nd-floor penthouse for a VIP reception.

With a spectacular view of downtown Houston in the background, the 7-foot-2-inch Mutombo worked the room, shaking hands with fans and posing for photos. The party eventually moved to the first-floor ballroom, where models showed off fashions by **Lucho** and **Betsey Johnson**. Appetizers were provided by 17 and Yao's Restaurant and Bar.

The fundraiser was co-sponsored by GLOSS, the Houston Chronicle's monthly luxury lifestyle magazine. It helped to raise funds for the 10-acre, 300-bed Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital in Kinshasa,



DAVE ROSSMAN PHOTOS: FOR THE CHRONICLE

KICK START: Houston Dynamo players Adrian Serieux, from left, Zach Wells and Brian Ching get acquainted with Houstonians.

Congo, which is named in memory of Mutombo's mother. The basketball star has given \$10 million of his own money to fund the hospital.

On the scene were **Rachel McNeill** and hubby **Dr. Wayne Franklin**, **Lloyd Gite**, **Maurine Ford**, **Wanda Holomis** and **Bill**

Sadler. Houston Rockets **Bol Sura** and **Tracy McGrady**, wife **Clerenda Harris**, were also on hand; and Houston Dynamo players **Brian Ching**, **Adrian Serieux** and **Zach Wells** got a kick out of the scene.

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