

Conway gets going in N.Ky.

He raises \$110K to battle Bunning

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FORT MITCHELL – U.S. Senate candidate Jack Conway kicked off his fundraising campaign Saturday night with a lucrative event in Fort Mitchell.

Conway, a Louisville Democrat and the incumbent attorney general, reportedly raised \$110,000 during a fundraiser at the home of Mary Lee and Nathan Smith, the former vice chairman of the Kentucky Democratic Party.

The amount of money raised was provided by Conway's campaign and event organizers and could not be independently confirmed.

Candidates for federal office must report three-month fundraising totals in mid-July.

"It was Jack's coming-out party," Nathan Smith said Monday. "People are excited about him; that's obvious."

Conway campaign manager Mark Riddle said June will be a fundraising odyssey for Conway, with 26 events during the month.

"The goal is to obviously

show a strong fundraising quarter to continue to make the argument that Jack has the momentum," Riddle said.

Conway is running for the Senate nomination against Lt. Gov. Daniel Mongiardo and retired U.S. Customs officer Darlene Fitzgerald Price. The seat is now held by U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning, a Southgate Republican running for a third term in 2010.

Conway did suffer a verbal gaffe during his speech at the event, referring to the region as "North Carolina" rather than Northern Kentucky, though Smith said he quickly corrected himself.

The Mongiardo campaign pointed out that Conway attended Duke University, a heated rival of the University of Kentucky Wildcats.

"We will send (Conway) a new 'UK Wildcat/Coach Cal' T-shirt in hopes that he will wear it at all times under his suit to serve as a helpful reminder that he is in Kentucky Wildcat country, not Duke Blue Devil country," Mongiardo campaign spokesman Kim Geveden wrote in an e-mail to reporters Monday.