



Special Olympics
Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Olympics Scores an Ace in Charlottesville

**Tennis Invitational Brings Together Nation's Top Special
Olympics Players
Jan. 14-16 at Boar's Head Sports Club**



Charlottesville, VA (January 10, 2010) – Special Olympics athlete Jon Fried's

motto: play like a tiger, not like a chicken. And play like a tiger he does. Jon took home the gold medal at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in 2007, making him the top Special Olympics tennis player on the planet.

Athlete Chris Raupp never lets nerves get the best of him, although he admits he couldn't be more nervous than when he plays in front of a crowd. His biggest crowd yet: playing during the warm-up session of the Pete Sampras and John McEnroe match in Charlottesville in 2007.

Athlete Heather Campbell repeats these three words before every tennis match: Yes! Thanks! Go! She's come a long way, considering she just set foot on the courts three years ago.

Come cheer for Charlottesville's own, Jon, Chris and Heather, as well as 33 of the nation's top tennis players, this week at the Special Olympics Xperience Tennis Invitational at The Boar's Head, Jan. 14-16. The Xperience brings together the best of the best for round-robin tournament play, as well as a clinic with the UVA men's and women's tennis teams and a doubles play with members of the local community. It's a three-day tennis extravaganza that's not to be missed.

The Opening Ceremony and Unified Tennis Social runs today from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14; tournament play is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, with the Awards Ceremony starting at 3:30 p.m. Saturday. The UVA tennis clinic runs from 6-7:30 p.m. Friday. The Xperience comes to a close Saturday evening when the players will watch UVA take on Miami at the John Paul Jones arena.

Xperience facts:

- There are 36 athletes competing from 10 states, including four from Virginia: Jon Fried, Chris Raupp, Heather Campbell (all from Charlottesville) and Jeff Regan (of Virginia Beach).
- The Xperience fulfills the dream of local Special Olympics athlete Jon Fried and his family. The dream was to bring together the best Special Olympics tennis players in the United States and provide them with an amazing competitive experience right here in Charlottesville. The first Xperience Invitational took place in 2008.

- **This year's event is presented by the Boyd C. Tinsley Foundation, the Bama Works Fund and the Boar's Head Sports Club. Additional sponsorship is provided by Virginia National Bank, Kroger and The Supply Room Companies.**

Boar's Head Inn, a 170-room resort set on 573 acres in the Virginia countryside, offers Four-Diamond dining, a state-of-the-art Sports Club, tennis, championship golf, a luxurious spa, children's programs, meeting space, and proximity to attractions such as Monticello, the Blue Ridge Mountains, and a variety of outstanding local wineries. The Inn is owned and operated by the University of Virginia Foundation. For information on Boar's Head Inn's 170-room resort set on 573 acres in the Virginia countryside, offers Four-Diamond dining, a state-of-the-art Sports Club, tennis, golf, a luxurious spa, children's programs, and meeting space, or to make overnight reservations, call 434-972-2232 or 800-476-1988; or visit the resort's website at www.boarsheadinn.com.

For more information about this tournament, or for a media pass to attend the Xperience tennis event, please contact Holly Claytor at 804-346-5544, ext. 3025, or hclaytor@specialolympicsva.org. For more information on Special Olympics Virginia, visit www.specialolympicsva.org. For more information about The Boar's Head, please contact Pat Burnette at 434-972-6011 or pat_burnette@boarsheadinn.com.

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Special Olympics is a year-round international program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. By using sport as a vehicle for social change, Special Olympics Virginia strives to create opportunities for meaningful interaction and self discovery for everyone. The organization's goal is to open the heart and mind of every Virginian to the value and ability of persons with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Virginia Inc. is the state program of Special Olympics Incorporated.