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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



SERVING UP THE BEST IN THE NATION

*Tennis Invitation al Brings Together Nation's Top Special Olympics Players
January 13-15 at The Boar's Head*

Charlottesville, VA, January 10, 2011: For more than 35 years, Special Olympics athlete Jon Fried has found solace on the tennis court. His often unmatched success in the sport has taken him all over the world, and this year will be no different. Jon will represent Special Olympics Virginia at the 2011 World Summer Games in Athens, Greece in June.

As he prepares for his third international tournament, he will polish his skills against some of the nation's best players next week at **the Special Olympics Xperience Tennis Invitational at The Boar's Head, Jan. 13-15**. 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 doubles play with members of the local community.

Join six local Charlottesville schools and Volunteer to Cheer for Jon and 35 of the nation's top tennis stars. The Opening Ceremony and Unified Tennis Social runs from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13; tournament play is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, and is followed by the UVA tennis clinic from 6-7:30 p.m. Final tournament play resumes Saturday, Jan. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the Awards Ceremony starting at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Xperience facts:

- There are 36 athletes competing from 12 states, including three from Virginia: Jon Fried, Chris Raupp (both from Charlottesville) and Jeff Regan (from 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 of the Dave Matthews Band in the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation and The Boar's Head, all of which have supported the tournament since its inception. Additional sponsorship is provided by Virginia National Bank, Kroger, the Daily Progress, NBC 29 and Monticello Media.

The Boar's Head, 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 The Boar's Head call 434-972-2232 or 800-476-1988; or visit the resort's website at www.boarsheadinn.com.

For more information or if you plan to attend the Xperience, please contact Holly Claytor at 804-370-7916 or hclaytor@specialolympicsva.org. For more information on Special Olympics Virginia, visit www.specialolympicsva.org.

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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.