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**PROCEEDS FROM 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JOHN MADDEN AND STEVE MARIUCCI "BATTLE OF THE BAY" CHARITY BOCCE TOURNAMENT HELPS SEND SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ATHLETES TO SUMMER GAMES**

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – Proceeds from the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual John Madden and Steve Mariucci "Battle of the Bay" Charity Bocce Tournament helped send an East Bay delegation of 130 Special Olympic Northern California athletes to this year's Special Olympics Summer Games at UC-Davis in June, 2010. Eighteen bocce athletes from Alameda County were among the delegation competing in the championship level play at Summer Games.

"We are thrilled to have the ability to help some local athletes get out and show their talent on the big stage" said John Madden. "This is exactly the reason we run our annual Bocce tournament and with today's economy, it is more important than ever that we continue to help such extraordinary charities like the Special Olympics."

"This was extremely rewarding to help these Special Olympic athletes this year", said Steve Mariucci. "And, to allow some athletes to play the sport of Bocce was fun to see since our tournament is built off of this great sport."

Bocce is a popular sport among Special Olympics athletes in Northern California. Each spring season they train for eight weeks before participating in large regional competitions, where they hope to qualify and compete in the annual Summer Games. This year two Alameda bocce teams brought home medals. The Alameda WinStars Comets won Silver and the Tri City Krushers won bronze during two days of competitive play.

Over the past decade, over \$3 million dollars has been raised for local Bay Area charities, such as The Boys and Girls Club, Special Olympics Northern California and Kaleidoscope and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to name a few. The tournament is a unique event that has brought famous athletes, celebrities, dignitaries and business leaders together to enjoy an old world game in a venue dedicated to the sport of Bocce. All Bay Area professional sports teams and Fortune 500 companies, along with several local Universities and Colleges will be invited to participate in the tournament.

**For more information on next year's tournament, visit [www.maddenmariuccibocce.com](http://www.maddenmariuccibocce.com) as the 13<sup>th</sup> annual tournament will take place on June 1, 2011.**

More about Special Olympics: Special Olympics Northern California is a free year-round sports training and competition program for individuals with developmental disabilities. About 14,000 athletes compete in over 170 competitions throughout the region in 12 sports. This gives them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, skills and friendships with their families, other athletes and the community. Financial support comes almost exclusively from individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations. Find out how you can be a fan and visit [www.SONC.org](http://www.SONC.org)

More about Campo di Bocce:

Campo di Bocce ([www.campodibocce.com](http://www.campodibocce.com)) of Livermore is the host for the annual tournament and is a family-owned Italian restaurant and United States Bocce Federation affiliated Bocce Club located in the beautiful Livermore Valley Wine Country. Originating in Los Gatos in February 1997, the second location (Livermore, CA) location opened its doors June 2006. Playing host to the 2007 and 2009 United States Bocce Federation Championships and the 2006 North American Championships, Campo di Bocce of Livermore has gained international recognition as a destination facility for bocce players across the globe; all the while, making bocce accessible to people of all ability levels. Truly the ultimate experience in dining and recreation, Campo di Bocce of Livermore offers 8 World Class, State-of-the-Art bocce courts, traditional Italian cuisine, a superb local wine list and friendly atmosphere

of casual elegance. Escape to Italy in your own backyard – with dining indoors in any one of our spacious dining areas or outdoors with views of surrounding vineyards, Campo di Bocce of Livermore truly is an escape from the norm.

[MORE INFO ON 2011 US AND WORLD BOCCE CHAMPIONSHIPS](#)