

Community News

Charlotte Maccabi Delegation Visits Beautiful San Diego for 2008 Games

Under constantly sunny southern California blue skies, with temperatures perfectly set in the mid-70s, 27 athletes and six credentialed adults of the Charlotte delegation enjoyed the 26th edition of the JCC Maccabi Games. San Diego was one of three host cities to welcome JCC Maccabi Games athletes this year with over 1700 total athletes (1500+ visiting and 200+ local San Diego athletes) participating. This was yet another huge gathering of Jewish teenagers in the 26-year history of the JCC Maccabi Games. Athletes participated in thirteen different sport competitions, a local community service project plus evening social activities. There were approximately 45 delegations attending these San Diego Games.

Our hometown Charlotte delegation consisted of a mixed boys 16U baseball team (nine Charlotte athletes plus two ballplayers from Columbus, OH), a mixed boys 14U soccer team (five Charlotte athletes, three players from Palo Alto, CA and two players from Columbus, OH), a mixed boys 16U soccer team (one Charlotte athlete combined with San Francisco and St. Paul), a mixed girls 16U basketball team (one Charlotte athlete combined team with St. Louis), as well as eleven individual sport athletes who competed in bowling, dance, golf, swimming, table tennis and tennis events.

A number of our team and individual sport athletes had outstanding success in their athletic competitions. The boys 14U mixed soccer team finished with a 5-2 record and an unexpected bronze medal. The team defeated Boca Raton in the medal game by a score of 6-3, scoring three second half goals and shutting the opponents out after being tied at 3s at halftime. The only teams that this mixed soccer team lost to were the eventual Gold Medal team from Mexico and Silver Medal team from San Diego and both those games were highly contested. Great teamwork was displayed by this mixed team throughout their tournament. The boys 16U mixed baseball team finished with a 3-4 record, losing in the bronze medal game to the team from Boca Raton 8-6 on a highly contested umpire's call with the bases loaded. This team did have "the game" of the baseball tournament, however, with their come-from-behind, last-at-bat three-run seventh inning quarter-final victory over our nearby neighbors from Atlanta, after Atlanta had scored two runs in the top of the seventh inning to take the lead once again in this see-saw affair. The way the Charlotte team stormed the field after this game, one would have thought they had just won the World Series.

A number of our individual sport athletes also performed extremely well at the San Diego



The Boys 14U mixed soccer team proudly shows off their bronze medal.

JCC Maccabi Games. Sean Corcoran, a 15-year-old swimmer, had an unbelievably outstanding meet, winning a total of twelve medals in boys 16U swim (Gold - 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke, 200m backstroke, 200m freestyle, 200m freestyle mixed delegation relay, 400m freestyle mixed delegation relay and Silver - 50m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 100m butterfly, 100m freestyle, 200m butterfly, 200m medley



Dayna Katz and Sarah Platock enjoy the camaraderie of the games.

mixed delegation relay); Jeremy Gerger won a gold medal for his incredible tap dance performance; Kyle Worrel won a gold medal for the Long Drive competition at Torrey Pines; Yoni Raffler won a bronze medal for boys 15-16 golf in the team scramble at Torrey Pines with a combined score of 71 and Gabrielle Lewis won two silver medals for bowling, one for individual and one for team.

Congratulations to each and every one of the 27 Charlotte athletes for their efforts and energies while on the field of play and for their exemplary behavior both on and off the field of play while representing our community. Great job by all.

Special thanks go out to all six of our credentialed adults for all of their hard work and efforts in support of our Charlotte athletes. These people include: Larry Brown (boys 16U baseball coach), Dan Vizzini (boys 14U soccer coach), Lisa Strause (swimming), Crista Cohen (table tennis), Kim Worrel (golf) and Barry Schumer (Delegation Head).

The Coca-Cola Company is the Continental sponsor of the JCC Maccabi Games. The relationship between Coke and the Jewish Community Center Movement has been a catalyst to the tremendous growth of the Games. Coca-Cola continues to support the goals of the Games, as well as provide valuable resources to the

Continental Governing Body, the many host communities and to the participants themselves. Coca-Cola is the provider of financial support, substantial product, JCC Maccabi Games water bottles and T-shirt. We thank the Coca-Cola Company for their outstanding support of the JCC Maccabi Games and the JCC Movement.

Many thanks also to all of our local corporate and individual sponsors for their ongoing support of our local Charlotte delegation via their generous donations to help defray trip expenses and provide scholarship assistance where needed. This year's sponsors included: Akropolis Café at the Arboretum, Pediatric Urology Associates (Dr. Jay Levy), Karp Travel and Cruises, Laxer, Long & Savage, DDS, Jodi & Gary Michel, Pediatric Dentistry of Matthews (Dr. Scott Goodman), Levine Properties, Dr. Scott Menaker, Staff Orthodontics and Alene and Sam Strause. It is great knowing we can count on your support.

Members of the 2008 Charlotte delegation were: Matthew Baron, Kevin Berman, Sammy Brown, Sean Corcoran, Benjamin Davis, Adam Fishel, Andrew Fishkin, Jeremy Gerger, Will Goldberg, Dayna Katz, Josh Kipnis, Eli Kronovet, Adam Levinson, Gabrielle Lewis, Zachary Maniloff, Ari Menaker, Max Menaker, Allie Michel, Sarah Platock, David Plaus, Rebecca Raffler, Yoni Raffler, Matt Richman, Max Wasser, Alex

Weiner, Kyle Worrel and Reid Worrel.

Next year's JCC Maccabi Games will be held in San Francisco, the week of August 2-7, 2009. As of this writing, we are

unsure what our allotment total will be as mandated by the national office. Once the allotment number is established and known, we will begin to get organized with

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