

# The Streets of San Francisco Welcome Team Charlotte to the 2009 JCC Maccabi Games

By Barry Schumer

Under fog free, sunny and windy Northern California blue skies (no, that is not a typo), with fall-like temperatures in the mid-60s, 26 athletes and five credentialed adults of the Charlotte Delegation enjoyed the 27th edition of the JCC Maccabi Games. San Francisco was one of three host cities to welcome JCC Maccabi Games athletes this year with over 1500 total athletes (1300+ visiting and 200+ local San Francisco athletes) participating. This was yet another huge gathering of Jewish teen-agers in the 27-year history of the JCC Maccabi Games. Athletes participated in 13 different sport competitions, a local community service project plus evening social activities. There were almost 45 delegations attending these San Francisco Games.

Our hometown Charlotte delegation consisted of a mixed boys 16U baseball team (eight Charlotte athletes plus three ballplayers from New Orleans), a full boys 14U basketball team, a mixed boys 16U soccer team (three Charlotte athletes, four players from New Orleans and four players from Tucson), as well as six individual sport athletes who competed in bowling, golf, swimming and tennis competitions.

The vast majority of our team and individual sport athletes had substantial success in their athletic competitions. The boys 16U mixed soccer team really jelled nicely and finished with a 4-4 record, losing in the Bronze medal game to the full team from Richmond. The boys 16U mixed baseball team finished with a 4-3 record, losing in the bronze medal game to the team from Boca Raton. This was the "grudge game" from a year ago, with our team hoping to turn the tide against the boys from Florida once and for all, but it was not to be. The boys 14U full basketball team finished with a 3-2 record, losing in a quarter-final match to a very talented team from the host city of San Francisco. This was a very solid showing for the nine newcomers to the JCC Maccabi Games experience and bodes well for future games.

A number of our individual sport athletes also performed quite well at the San Francisco JCC Maccabi Games. Sean Corcoran, a 15-year-old swimmer, had another outstanding meet, winning a total of ten medals in boys 16U swim (gold - 50 yd., backstroke, 200 yd. butterfly, 400 yd. free relay and 400 yd. medley relay; silver - 50 yd. freestyle, 100 yd. backstroke and 400 yd. individual medley; bronze - 50 yd. backstroke, 200 yd. backstroke and 200 yd. free relay; Allie Michel won a bronze medal in Girls 16U 200 yd. medley relay, Mara Michel won a bronze medal in mixed 16U 400 yd. medley relay; Gabi Lewis won a gold medal for team bowling and a bronze medal for single high score; and Kyle Worrel won a gold



Team Charlotte 2009

medal for the longest drive competition in golf.

Congratulations to each and every one of the 26 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 five 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), Dr. Jon Levine (boys 14U basketball coach), Crista Cohen (swimming), Dan Vizzini (Assistant Delegation Head) 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

trip expenses and provide scholarship assistance where needed. This year's sponsors included: Karp Travel and Cruises, Dr. Scott Menaker, and Alene and Sam Strause.

Members of the 2009 Charlotte delegation were: Matthew Baron, Sammy Brown, Sean Corcoran, Ross Corday, Adam Fishel, Jeremy Gerger, Henry Gorelick, Noah Kipnis, Ethan Levine, Evan Levine, Gabrielle Lewis, Austin Machicote, Jacob Maniloff, Ari Menaker, Max Menaker, Allie Michel, Mara Michel, Jordan Phillips, David Plaus, Yoni Raffler, Matt Rubin, David Valenstein, Max Wasser, Daniel Willenzik, Kyle Worrel and Reid Worrel.

Next year's JCC Maccabi Games will be held in either Richmond, Denver, or Omaha, the week of August 1-6. As of this writing, we are unsure what our allotment total will be as mandated by the national office or where we will be going. Once the allotment number is established and known, we will begin to get organized with the first informational



Team Charlotte is ready to compete.

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 our local corporate and individual sponsors for their on-going support of our local Charlotte delegation via their generous donations to help defray

meeting for newcomers and returning athletes in early December. Per national and local guidelines, the JCC Maccabi Games are for Jewish teens ages 13-16 (by August 1, 2010), with priority registration always given to current Levine JCC members.

For further information on getting involved with the JCC Maccabi Games, contact Levine JCC Assistant Executive Director Barry Schumer at 704-944-6744. ☆



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