

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jan. 13, 2011



Contact: Kathy Muffenbier

303.592.1361

km@specialolympicsco.org

Denver Nuggets Host Basketball Clinic for Special Olympics Colorado Athletes

DENVER, Colo. -- Nearly 150 Special Olympics Colorado athletes were recent guests of the Denver Nuggets for a basketball skills clinic. The event took place Wednesday, Jan. 12 at the Pepsi Center, the home court of the Nuggets. This is the seventh-successive year the Nuggets' staff and players have volunteered their time to host the event, which was once again sponsored by Kroenke Sports Enterprises and Comfort Dental.

The 90-minute clinic included rotating stations with instruction on conditioning, passing, dribbling, defense and shooting drills compliments of the entire Nuggets' coaching staff and roster of players. The Denver Nuggets organization is the **ONLY** one in the National Basketball Association that does an all-player/all coaches clinic for Special Olympics. According to Deb Dowling Canino, Vice President of Community Relations and Fan Development for Kroenke Sports Enterprises, the clinic for Special Olympics Colorado is the only mandatory team appearance required each year for the Nuggets and is considered a favorite among staff and players.

"The first thing we do each year when we get our games schedule from the NBA is confirm a date for the Special Olympics basketball clinic," Dowling Canino said. "It is of primary importance to our entire staff that we get that day scheduled."

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our athletes to meet some of their favorite professional basketball players on a day they will remember for a lifetime," Mindy Watrous, President & CEO of Special Olympics Colorado remarked.

"What better way to improve their basketball skills then by learning from the Denver Nuggets. The players are true pros on and off the court -- providing a wonderful opportunity for our Special Olympics athletes to showcase their tremendous abilities, rather than their disabilities. Special Olympics Colorado hosts more than 80 events a year for our athletes, but the one that I get asked about most frequently is the Denver Nuggets Clinic. We are extremely grateful to the Denver Nuggets and Kroenke Sports for this opportunity and to Comfort Dental for their sponsorship of the event."



Since 1969, Special Olympics Colorado (SOCO) has been strengthening families, athletes and the very soul of our community through sports training and athletic competitions. Special Olympics Colorado provides year-round training and sponsors over 80 competitions at the area and state level in 20 sports for more than 10,000 athletes statewide. With a base of more than 6,500 volunteers, thousands of hours are donated allowing SOCO to support athletes of all ages and abilities, allowing them to build athletic, learning and social skills. Participation with other athletes, non-disabled peers (Unified Sports® partners), coaches, sponsors and volunteers builds confidence and creates opportunities to participate as productive and respected members of society by increasing public awareness of the athletes' capabilities. There is no cost to participate in Special Olympics.

Support. Volunteer. Compete. Special Olympics Colorado. Be a fan.