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## **John R. Wooden Classic Coaches Dinner** *Evening Celebrates Legendary UCLA Coach and Two Local Charities*

**Anaheim** – Tonight was a celebration of excellence – on the court and in serving children and adults in need. The John R. Wooden Classic Coaches Dinner, held at the Anaheim Hilton, featured an interview between legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden and emcee CBS-2 Sports Director Jim Hill. The second annual Pyramid Award was presented to Bill Dwyre, 25 year LA Times sports editor and board member of Casa Colina Hospitals. (The Pyramid Award is given to an individual who is committed to the values in Coach Wooden's pyramid of success and to giving back to the community.) The dinner is on day two of a 3-day celebration of Coach Wooden: Thursday was the charity golf tournament at Monarch Beach Golf Links in Dana Point and Saturday was the NCAA basketball doubleheader at Honda Center featuring San Diego State versus St. Mary's in Game 1 and UCLA versus DePaul in Game 2. The two charity events benefit Orangewood Children's Foundation and Special Olympics Southern California. In the five years that the two charities have combined forces on the event, it has raised a total of \$645,000.

The dinner and golf tournament committee was chaired by Cristina Walters, a Special Olympics volunteer, UCLA alumnus and Orange County resident. Over 300 guests attended the Coaches Dinner which began with a reception and silent auction. Many collegiate and professional athletes and coaches were there including: former UCLA basketball coaches Jim Harrick and Walt Hazzard, former UCLA football coach Gary Cunningham, former UCLA basketball players

Jamaal Wilkes, John Vallely and Tracy Murray, former UCLA womens basketball player Ann Meyers-Drysdale and former UCLA and Olympic decathlon athlete Rafer Johnson. Richard Elliot, the soul-jazz star who first found fame as a member of the funk band Tower of Power, was the featured entertainment.