

Athletic complex dedicated

Field to be used by Special Olympians

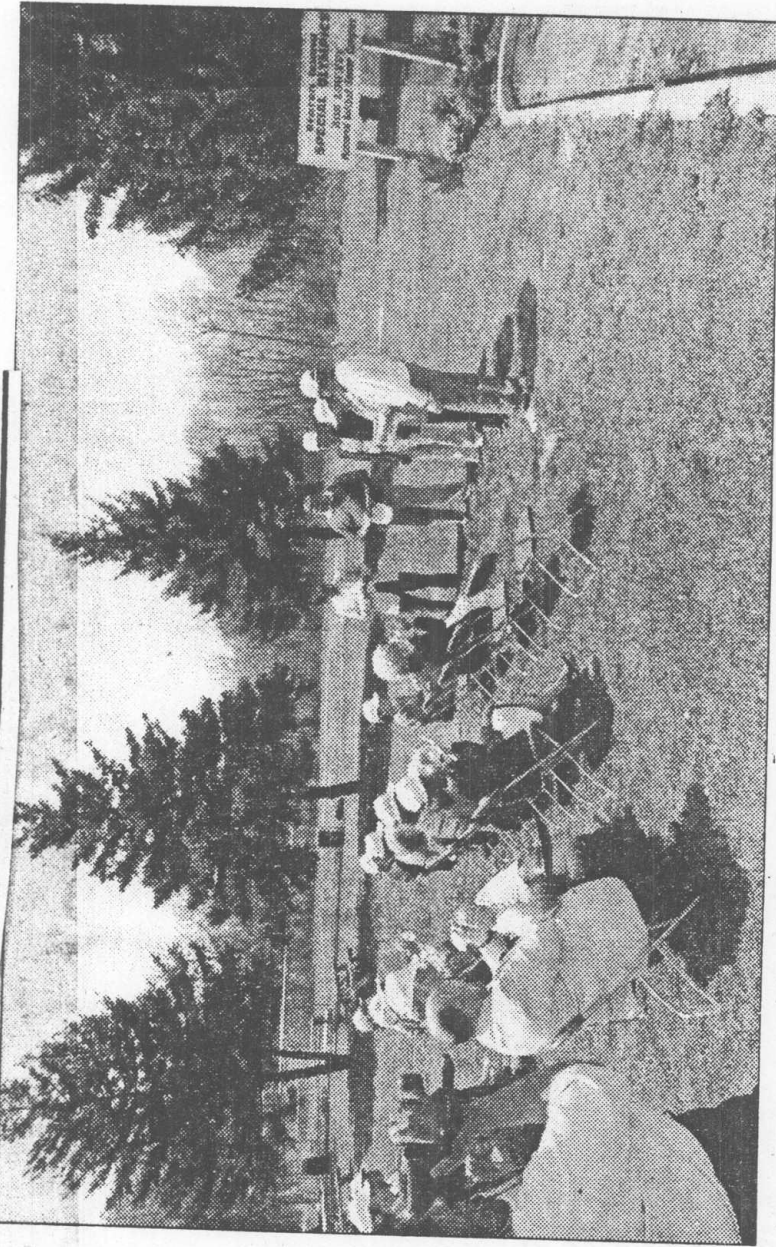
BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

More than 50 people turned out yesterday for the dedication of the new Bob Lowney Memorial Softball/Soccer Complex on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office (DDSO) in Willowbrook.

Last year money was donated by the Bob Lowney Memorial Committee to the Staten Island Special Olympics to spruce up the Willowbrook field on the DDSO grounds. The field will be used by members of the Special Olympics.

The Bob Lowney Pro-Am Golf Tournament is held each year in the Richmond County Country Club, Dongan Hills, and the proceeds are donated to a charitable organization.

This year, the committee donated \$10,000 to the Special Olympics for softball and soccer uniforms and for enhancements



Richie Salinardi, second from right, director of the Staten Island Special Olympics, accepts a check for \$10,000 from the Bob Lowney Memorial Committee for an athletic facility for Special Olympians in Willowbrook as a crowd looks on.

ADVANCE PHOTO/RICH KANE

made to the field, said Richard Salinardi, director of the Staten Island Special Olympics. The field was completed by Azzie Garden Center, West Brighton.

Salinardi led the ceremony, which also featured the unveiling of a sign naming the field the "Bob Lowney Memorial Softball/Soc-

cer Complex."

Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly also attended the ceremony, after which a practice softball game was played by Special Olympics children.

Family and friends of the late Bob Lowney established a memorial fund after his death in 1982.

A 1973 graduate of Monsignor Farrell High School, Lowney was a member of the high school golf team.

The year of his graduation, he was named an Advance All-Star and also was an individual winner in the Metropolitan Catholic School Golf Championship in Westchester County.

He also played golf in college while attending the University of Florida at Gainesville. At that time he was a runner-up in the 1974 NCAA golf team championship.

Cindy Lowney, Lowney's sister, represented her family at the event.