

# PETER OKOCHA



AGE: 33

COUNTRY: Nigeria

HOMETOWN: Ijuja

POSITION: Goalkeeper



**STORY:** Peter Okocha is a 33-year old Special Olympics footballer with cerebral palsy who speaks three languages and is an avid chess player. The goalie loves playing football and has been defending others from scoring on goal for 19 years. He plays football at least three times a week and always strives to win. Peter was born in to a family of football fans and he came to enjoy the sport because his father used to take him to football matches as a child.

His coaches describe him as a great teammate and a humble athlete who takes instruction well Peter's determination to be the best footballer he can be has led him to many great accomplishments. He was chosen to participate with the Special Olympics Nigeria football delegation in the 2007 World Summer Games in Shanghai and had a great time there.

Peter says that Special Olympics has provided him with amazing experiences and has given him the courage and good health that he would not have gained otherwise. He says the independence he has gained through his participation with Special Olympics gives him great pride. His dream is that his love of football will help him lead a very full life off the field.