

THE STORIES

TEAM EGYPT

Abdrahman Ali (17) & Salah Hamed (15)

A Hero in Life and Sport

Ibrahim Gaafar Elzeni is a unique person. He comes from Saudi Arabia. He is 24 years old, but he is responsible for his own family which consists of eight brothers and sisters and a father who doesn't work. Ibrahim works in a workshop so that he can support his family's living needs.

Ibrahim is an athletic champion as well. He has been participating in Special Olympics for eight years. He has won many gold and silver medals throughout many competitions. His favorite athlete, whom he wishes to be like, is Himdan Elbeishy, a famous athlete in Saudi Arabia.

Ibrahim has a great will to be a famous athlete in the world. Even though he has great responsibilities he wishes to marry and have a family to take care of.

I was amazed that I have found a great spirit in Ibrahim which I haven't found in other people.



TEAM TAIWAN

Peter Chang, 11 & Wei Hsung Chen, 12

今天是特奧開幕的第一天，也是我們青少年高峰會真正開始活動的時候。我們被分配到網球場那兒去訪問，在經過一連串的困難以後，終於千辛萬苦的到了網球場，進去後，威勳就急著找他的Shan Yi名字，中國的運動員。雖然沒看到，但他還是保持安靜，我們剛坐下，德國的運動員就來交換徽章，（當時我還不知道他是運動員），交換完後，他就坐在我們的旁邊，那時JOY才說『要不要訪問那位運動員？』我才知道他是運動員，因為看來也沒有人會比他便於訪問，於是我們就上前試試看了。

他的名字是MICHAEL，1969年生，今年34歲，在牧場工作，那是一個專為智障者而設的工作場所。當他高中畢業的時候，學校介紹他到那裡嘗試看適不適合那些工作，然後等到訓練完畢後再讓他留在那裡。我覺得這是一個不錯的方法，因為在他的工作當中，他們跟同樣的人相處，就可以避免被歧視。他也很喜歡慢跑、足球和騎腳踏車，他非常滿意自己的運動項目，也喜歡參加運動會，因為他知道這是他們的運動會，他可以交到很多的朋友，接受大家的掌聲、歡呼和鼓勵。這是他們兩年訓練下來應得到的成果，他也很證明，特奧運動員都能在運動中得到歡樂與成長！



Special Olympics
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THE STORIES

23 JUNE

TEAM ALASKA

Everyone is a winner when it comes to Special Olympics, but not everyone gets the chance to wear a medal around their neck at the global level. Today we got the chance to meet an amazing woman, a person who, like many others, worked very hard to get here. She had a smile that could brighten anyone's day and spoke like she had no fear or sadness in the world. Her name was Tricia Yeager.

Tricia Yeager was born and raised in Chester, Pennsylvania, USA. She is 34 years old and has participated in Special Olympics for 24 years. She works in a daycare center and has three siblings. She is a very versatile athlete in that she has participated in swimming, track and field, downhill skiing, ice skating and bowling. Upon hearing that she was chosen to attend the Special Olympics World Summer Games for bowling, she said she was extremely excited. Since that time, she practiced once a week to prepare herself.

Today Tricia participated in a team bowling event. There were three other athletes on her team. They competed against five other teams from around the world, all fighting for the gold. The team of four Tricia was competing on took the gold with a combined score of over 1,200. "I was very excited. My mom, dad, and brother were there supporting me. There were also many other people there and everyone was cheering." In the upcoming week, Tricia will also be competing in the doubles and singles for bowling. When asked what advice she has for anyone who would like to get the gold she said, "Work hard and keep going for it; don't give up."

Tricia Yeager was a wonderful person to talk to. Her plans for the future are to get her own apartment and her favorite thing in the world is a donkey. Tricia is obviously a very social person. Her favorite part about Special Olympics is meeting new friends. When asked what her favorite part about Ireland is she said, "Getting to meet new people." And her favorite activity is hanging out with her friends. And when asked who she admires most in the whole world, she replied with a huge smile, "My mom and dad."

A Glimpse of Stanley Baciewski

Stanley Baciewski is 38 years old and comes from Connecticut, in the United States. He has been involved in Special Olympics for 28 years, competing in swimming, basketball, downhill skiing, track and softball. Being part of basketball and softball gave him the chance to compete on a Unified Sports® team. "Being on a Unified team gave me the chance to make new friends and, as a result, I feel more welcome in my town."

Stanley lives with his mother and older sister. He graduated from an integrated public high school for both special and general education students. He now has a steady job at "Beat Brothers," a local supermarket. When asked what his favorite movie was, he replied, "Indiana Jones." Also, when asked what he wanted to do with the rest of his life, he replied in a very excited voice, "My family is making a movie." He didn't want to give details, but you could tell it was a very important thing to him, after seeing his face light up the way it did.

Now everyone's probably wondering, why is Stanley here in Ireland? Stanley is one of the many strong and fast athletes who made it to the World Games to participate in swimming. Although he is now having a great time, it took a lot of work to prepare for the Games. He has been swimming for nine years, practicing twice a week. Tuesday, 24 June, will be Stanley's time to show his skill to the rest of world.

We happened to not only meet a wonderful athlete, but a star. We are proud to announce that we met one of the 12 Special Olympics Global Messengers! Stanley is one of the original class of Global Messengers. He has been involved for three years now. "Being a Global Messenger has helped me learn how to help other people learn," says Stanley.

"The best thing in the world is Special Olympics because it is all over the world and because it has given me the chance to show my ability while exercising and getting a healthy body," Stanley announced enthusiastically.

Even though we only had a few hours to spend at swimming, we met many wonderful people. We also interviewed several athletes from Ireland and from the United States. I also got a chance to use my skill and interview a man from Austria in German. It was a wonderful first day. The best part was feeling the excitement and seeing all the smiling, happy faces.

THE STORIES

TEAM PARAGUAY

Conociendo a Martín

Conocimos a Antonio Martín integrante de la delegación de Fútbol representando a España. Él tiene 31 años, cumple años el 12 de Diciembre y es del año 71.

Le interesa mucho la práctica de Fútbol porque lo está haciendo desde muy pequeño, a los 14 años formó parte del equipo de su grado en la Escuela donde asistió (Escuela para niños especiales). El profesor le había dicho que tenía un buen tacto con el balón y que podía ser un gran futbolista, pues eso fue eso el entusiasmo mayor para seguir practicando. También porque me gusta estar entretenido y conocer nuevos amigos a través de este deporte.

Conozco Olimpiadas Especiales hace aproximadamente 11 años, participo compitiendo o colaborando en lo que sea necesario.

Mi última competencia fueron los Juegos Nacionales que se llevaron a cabo en la ciudad de Galicia. Nada fue fácil, uno siempre intenta estar bien con ganas, pero a veces terminas como polvo. Quisiera nombrar a Belén Pavia es una excelente voluntaria, ella ayuda al entrenador durante las prácticas. Belén siempre me da una mano o un sacudón cuando estoy cabizbajo sin ganas de competir o cuando he perdido algún partido y me quedo con ondas negativas, creo que sin sus alientos no podría seguir adelante.



TEAM JORDAN

Media Center Heroes

While I was wandering through the Media Center, I noticed some of the volunteers who were discussing various things, so I walked in and asked permission to interview one of them.

The volunteer's name was James Doherty, a local volunteer from Ireland, who works in the information technology field. James volunteered last year in the Special Olympics Ireland National Games. He was encouraged to get involved by Derek Crawley, who had been working for 18 months to make the Media Center in Special Olympics Ireland as great as it is.

When I asked James about the Irish feeling when they knew that the World Summer Games would be in Ireland, he said, "We didn't know what to expect, and the people who were in charge started to give us more information about Special Olympics." James also said that people are really excited and that is what really makes them work hard.

Anyway, what really has impressed me here in Ireland is that everyone is working and participating; no one is excluded, and everyone seems to know all about the Special Olympics mission. Moreover, he told me that, in his mind, what makes Special Olympics special is that everyone gets the chance to see the competitions and the venues. He told me that his parents who live in the countryside got the chance to meet one team because they came to participate.

As I had come to expect from every Irish, James was really nice and kind; he was answering his questions with much emotion and enthusiasm although he works from 11 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night.

So, James, from the entire Global Youth Summit team, we really appreciate what you and all the Irish volunteers have done to make it possible to type, access the Internet and share our experiences with everyone.



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TEAM TENNESSEE

Today Tyler and I interviewed a group of young ladies from California, USA. Semonee Dejean, Lisa Colmenares and Danyelle Borba are all members of the USA rollerblading team. Danyelle, who is one of the best skaters on the team, broke her foot on Thursday while practicing for the games.

Lisa and Semonee, who are good friends and teammates, said, "We are going to dedicate our medals to Danyelle when we win because she has been such a strong leader and encourager." We asked Danyelle how she is going to handle not being able to participate and she said, "I will just take all that energy and encourage my teammates even more."

The girls are from Antioch High School in California and they said that there, everyone supports them and encourages them to do their best in the Special Olympics. Danyelle said, "The World Games is the most wonderful event in her life and she loves all the fun and meeting new people." She also said that she loved the Opening Ceremonies and that the dancing was the greatest part. Her closing remark was, "The Special Olympics World Games is a once-in-a-lifetime chance," and she's not going to let her broken foot keep her from having the time of her life!

TEAM EGYPT

Here in Ireland as I was walking on the athletics track I met a group of athletes who were from Iraq. One of them introduced himself to me and he told me about himself.

Mohamed Kheir Allah Hani was that athlete. He is 20 years old. He has two sisters and five brothers. His father is a worker in public transportation. He has been participating in Special Olympics for three years. He has won two gold medals and one bronze medal in the Special Olympics Middle East/North Africa Regional Games. His favorite athlete is Mysaa Hessein, who is the champion of Iraq in athletics. He also likes to play football.

He doesn't take money from his father because he likes to depend on himself, so he works in a clothing shop as a tailor.

He has a wish which he wants to fulfill: to get married and to be responsible for a family.

I am very happy that I have met a guy like him who is very competitive, self-confident and trying to win to honor his country.

TEAM POLAND

I interviewed Eliana, Joanna and Claudia. They are from Peru. Joanna is 17 and she is Claudia's friend. Joanna learned about SO Get Into It!™ through her high school. Eliana told her about the Global Youth Summit. Joanna is a nice girl. I have a little problem with language, but I understand what she is telling me. She tells me about her country, about meeting Claudia and about a metaphor where a wall separates normal people and those with disabilities.

Joanna likes sports; she loves football and swimming. She was a swimmer for five years. Yesterday we were in the football venue together seeing how fantastic the athletes were.

Claudia is 15 years old. She loves to write, listen to music and learn gymnastics. She has problems because the practices are far away from where she lives.

Eliana wants this program to be continued in other schools in Peru. She spoke to me about the universal message, "We want to show that there is no difference among people with and without disabilities. We are all equal." I agree with her.

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TEAM NAMIBIA

Global Youth Summit Team Profile: Chile

Originating from a 4.5 million people-city in Chile are athlete Máximo Pacheco whose and partner Cristian Maluje, both chaperoned by Francisco Lobos. According to Francisco, Chile has a very interesting geography.

Chile is a country on the west coast of South America. It stretches in a ribbon more than 4,200km from Peru to the southern tip of the continent at Cape Horn, including the larger part of Tierra del Fuego, an archipelago separated from the mainland by the Strait of Magellan. It has an average width of 177km excluding a disputed territory in Antarctica, also claimed by Great Britain. Outlying territories include Easter Island, the Juan Fernandez Islands, and other islands in the Pacific Ocean. The Andes Mountains, reaching to more than 6,700m above sea level, separate the country from Argentina and Bolivia. The capital and largest city is Santiago, located in the central part of the country, where most of the population is concentrated. Chile, deriving from an Indian word, Tchili, means "the deepest point of the Earth." Chile achieved independence in 1818.

Three principal geologic regions run north and south through Chile: the Andes; the Central Valley, which is divided by mountain spurs and several rivers carrying runoff from the Andes; and a coastal escarpment (762m), which ends in steep cliffs along the Pacific coast and includes many islands in the south.

About 19 percent of the population lives in the southern third of Chile.

About 79 percent of Chile's people are mestizos (of mixed Indian and white ancestry). Another 20 percent are of European descent, mostly German, Swiss, Italian, British, French and Slavs whose ancestors settled in central and southern Chile in the 19th and 20th centuries. About 600,000 Araucanian-speaking Indians live in the forests south of the B'o-B'o River.

Spanish, the official language, is spoken by nearly all Chileans except some Indians, who retain their own, native languages. About 80 percent of the population practices Roman Catholicism.



TEAM CHINA

Yi Shan (18) and Yibiao Guo(19)

覃毅 (18) & 郭轶彪 (19)

2003年6月23日是第8届世界夏季特殊奥林匹克运动会开幕的第2天,分布在都柏林各个地方的体育场馆内相继展开了激烈的比赛。我们发现在激情拼搏的运动员背后出现了一支高水准的裁判员队伍根据本届特奥会裁判委员会的一名委员介绍,此次前来执法的裁判员都是国际特奥会从以往表现出色的裁判员中筛选出来的。我们知道,裁判员的执法水平和敬业精神能在某些时候决定一场比赛最终的结果。所以,只有建立好的仲裁管理机制,才能尽可能避免失误的出现,让运动员在一种公平、公正、公开的环境下展开竞赛。

从裁判的组织工作中我们可以看出,特奥委员会以及相关部门对这次运动会的重视程度之深,这对今后的特奥运动能朝着更好的方向稳步、有虚的发展奠定了坚实的基础



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TEAM HONG KONG

Michael Scanlan, 60 years old and living in Dublin, was our interviewee today. It's the first time he has taken part in such a large-scale Special Olympics World Games. This time he acted as a volunteer in charge of the security at the Royal Dublin Society. His son also joined as a volunteer at the World Games.

Michael started began his involvement with Special Olympics because Special Olympics is an incredible organization and he can get more wonderful experiences from it. Moreover, he can meet more people from different nations, no matter if they are athletes or family members of athletes. During our conversation, we deeply felt that he enjoyed the job very much and claimed that he must take part again.

In the past, Michael didn't have any contact with people with intellectual disabilities. After he joined Special Olympics as volunteer, he realized that there are many different levels for athletes. Their performances in their levels are excellent and they can do their best in their events. Michael praised them and said they are heroes.

There is still discrimination from the society. Regarding this negative attitude, he thought that it should not exist in our society. We should respect them and encourage them to do their best, particularly expanding their potentials. They are just like other people and we should treat them as anyone else.

From this story, we have come to understand that contact and integration between persons with and without intellectual disabilities is very important. We must do away with the misunderstanding. Then less and less discrimination will exist in the world. It's our job to spread this idea to our families, friends and colleagues and to lead them to make the first contact with mentally challenged persons actively.

TEAM TAIWAN

Peter Chang, 11 & Wei Hsung Chen, 12

粗壯的舉重教練

第二天，今天因為時間不夠，我們在RDS就地訪問，我打算訪問舉重教練，因為舉重可算是一種比較危險的運動項目，所以我想那邊的教練或是運動員應該會有特別的經驗。當時剛好有比賽，所以我們前往觀賞。經過連續探尋三位運動員和教練後，終於訪問到美國隊的教練……………。

她的名子是Kim Dunn，1967年生，今年36歲，已經擔任美國特奧舉重教練特殊奧運15年了。我覺得她是一個觀點蠻棒的教練，例如當她遇到一些運動員開始鬧脾氣或沮喪時，她會把他帶到一邊，等他冷靜下來後，問他鬧情緒的原因。如果他不回答，就先分析問題的原因，跟他說：「你舉重舉不好，不是你自己的問題，只是你缺少練習而已。而且現在又不是比賽，何必沮喪呢？」其他問題也難不倒她，我問她是如何讓運動員能堅持的練習下去呢？她說：「當然，他們本來就很喜歡這個項目，她也會教他們用一些比較輕鬆的方法，漸進式的來做這個艱難的項目。」我真高興能聽到這樣一位資深特奧運動專家的經驗談。

TEAM MISSOURI

Unified Sports® Sailing

Global Youth Summit members as well as many Special Olympics athletes were very instrumental in bringing Unified Sports® partners to the World Games here in Dublin, Ireland. The concept of Unified Sports is to break down barriers and build friendships with Special Olympics athletes and their communities. Upon interviewing Katie Anderson and Missy Allen from Mississippi, USA, it was obvious how effective Unified Sports partnerships can be.

Missy reported in her interview that she felt God had sent her an angel when Katie was assigned as her sailing partner. Missy's compassion and patience with Katie could be observed throughout their Triangle competition at the East Pier. As the photos have captured, both partners have reaped great benefits from their participation with Unified Sports. Katie has enjoyed many sports but, as she reported, "I love Missy and sailing the best!"

THE STORIES

TEAM PERU

Que Privilegio

Eran como las tres de la trade cuando llegamos al Castillo de Dublin, dentro de este hermoso Castillo nos dimos con una grata sorpresa; teníamos acceso a conocer a los más altos ejecutivos de Olimpiadas especiales. Entre ello se encontraba la familia Shriver; Eunice y su marido, Timothy, el nuevo presidente de la organización.

Dentro de todas estas personalidades tuvimos el honor y el orgullo de conocer a una peruana, Carmen Rosa Lopez. Carmen Rosa es la gerente de Desarrollo Organizacional de America Latina, y su cargo abarca muchas areas. Ella es la encargada de vigilar y formar y supervisar la formación de nuevos líderes, encontrar nuevas maneras de incrementar el número de voluntarios, buscar nuevas formas de llegar a un mejor entendimiento con los gobiernos y lograr su apoyo, etc.

Su Historia en Olimpiadas Especiales es realmente un modelo a seguir ya que ella empezó a trabajar en el año 1989 como voluntaria en sus años de universitaria. Carmen Rosa estudió educación especial y a lo largo de su años en la universidad se involucró más y más en el programa. Después de 10 años de escalando posiciones en la organización Carmen Rosa llegó al puesto en el que está ahora.

Desde aquí te mandamos nuestras felicitaciones y recuerda que todo el Perú está muy orgulloso de ti. Gracias por darnos la oportunidad de conocerte y gracias Olimpiadas Especiales por darnos la oportunidad de conocer este mundo de ensueño.

TEAM SOUTH AFRICA

Everyone in the world has a dream of success. This became a reality when Miles Morris (48) successfully outclassed his opponents at the bowling event. Morris, born in a family consisting of two brothers, three sisters and his parents, works at a workshop. He joined Special Olympics 15 years ago in 1988. Since then, the passion of bowling flourishes day by day. His joy after winning his gold medal couldn't be hidden

This is what he had to say: "Special Olympics is great and it makes me feel good. Everyone at home is going to praise me. I am so excited and don't know what to say.

"I concentrated well during the game. I was afraid because I was making a lot of mistakes during the practice but here I am with the gold medal. I am glad because people accepted me the way I am and they don't even call me names.

"To all the athletes who are still competing, it's good luck from Miles. And to the spectators and Special Olympics it's, 'Thank you!'"



TEAM INDIA

Yousif J Alamashmoum

Strong and confident, Yousif J. Alamashmoum is one of the athletes taking part in the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Yousif comes from Kuwait and was born on 3 August 1985.

Yousif is supported by a large family of 13, including 11 brothers and two sisters. Out of the 11 boys, three are taking part in the Games.

This year Yousif is competing in long jump, the 100m dash and a relay race. Though some of Yousif's other interests are playing football and softball, he also loves listening to Arabic music.

When Yousif grows up he wants to start working, making book covers.

Back in Yousif's country, people with mental disabilities are not treated any differently from anyone else. Lots of clubs are built for these children. At the clubs Yousif loves to swim and play basketball.

After being involved in Special Olympics for two years Yousif has become a very confident and determined person and definitely is going to achieve a lot!



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