

THE STORIES

TEAM PARAGUAY

Un Momento en el Autobús

Santiago Ramos Gonzales tiene 29 años, sus padres son Juliana y Jonas. El practica fútbol desde los 10 años. Su profesor se llama Jose Suarez.

El está muy contento porque ésta es su primera participación en los Juegos de Verano de Olimpiadas Especiales. Le gustó muchísimo la apertura porque además de ser una novedad para el estuvieron sus artistas favoritos que son "The Cors" y "U2."

Dice que su vida es muy aburrida, que iba al colegio pero no le gustaba estudiar. Su Jobbie es escuchar música y comer bien. Su comida favorita es el jamón serrano español, y la famosa paella española conocida mundialmente acompañada de una buena coca cola bien fría.

Tiene una novia que se llama Sonia. Ella tiene 28 años y la quiere mucho. Está con ella desde hace un año y medio. Dice que tiene un caracter muy fuerte pero que ella le quiere por su bien corazon.

(En Conversación)

Dice que no sabe hablar en inglés pero que le gustan las músicas, que las sabe cantar, puede decir cualquier cosa la música pero que la sabe canta.

Dice en su país cuando alguien no quiere decir que tiene novia dice que tiene una amiga/o con derecho a más.

TEAM CHINA

"起来，不愿做奴隶的人们，把我们的血肉筑成我们新的长城....."中华人民共和国的国歌在爱尔兰都柏林UCD的足球比赛场上响起了，但和往常不一样，歌声不是从最高的颁奖台上传来的，而是出自在足球决赛中功亏一篑的中国队教练席的方向。

中国队是以小组第2名的身份与巴巴多斯队在28日上午的决赛中相遇的。此前，中国队队员多数受到伤病的困扰，以至于教练在排兵部阵时捉襟见肘，再加上对方队员人高马大，所以想获得最后的胜利是相当困难的。

比赛开始后的5分钟双方势均力敌、互有攻守，场面也是非常好看。直到比赛进行到第6分钟，巴巴多斯队队员利用一次反击打破了僵局，随后又趁势连入两球，得到了比赛的主动权。而中国队只是在进行到9分钟时扳回一球。下半场比赛波澜不惊，双方各进一球。最终，巴巴多斯队以4比2的比分战胜了中国队，夺得了2003年国际特奥会男足的金牌。

赛后，中国队队员和在场的中国留学生抱坐一团共唱国歌，在稍显遗憾的同时，展现出了一种不凡的气质。相信他们会鼓起勇气，重拾信心，在不久的将来取得成功。

(郭铁彪REPORT 2003.6.28)

TEAM PERU

Mate

Hoy tuvimos la suerte de conocer no solamente el equipo de Trinidad y Tobago sino que pudimos ver el fabuloso Volley que jugaban. Gaitrie Rampersad tiene veintitrés años y su cumpleaños es el ocho de octubre, nació en el año 1979.

Gaitrie juega Volley desde que tenía 14 años y ella cuenta con mucho orgullo que desde que jugó la primera vez se enamoró de este deporte. Gaitrie así como muchos de las increíbles atletas que forman parte de Olimpiadas Especiales ama hacer también otros deportes. Ella nos contó que cuando tiene tiempo libre practica el hockey en piso, ella es muy buena ya que ganó bronce en Alaska cuando fue participando en hockey. Le fascina ir de compras, ver televisión, nadar y jugar críquet pero no tiene mucho tiempo para estas cosas ya que tiene que entrenar todos los martes y viernes Volley.

Gaitrie también nos contó que estaba muy emocionada de estar en los juegos y que sus padres estuvieran viéndola. Nos encantó que nos contara que sus padres ya ayudan mucho en esto y que ella se siente muy feliz por que sus padres la apoyan y le dan fuerzas para que siga avanzando. Asimismo, Gaitrie nos contó que le fascinó la ceremonia de inauguración y que ya espera con muchas ganas la ceremonia de clausura para ver "más cosas lindas"



THE STORIES

TEAM TENNESSEE

Tim Shriver tells how he started in Special Olympics and how he plans to keep it growing.

"I am the CEO of Special Olympics. I started getting involved with Special Olympics my junior year in high school. A speaker came to our high school and talked to us about Special Olympics and how there was a need for volunteers in the area. So a couple of my friends and me said that we would volunteer. We were in charge of track and field and there were about 300 athletes. That was the hardest work I have ever done and still to this day I have not worked that hard.

"Coming to Ireland with Special Olympics is the first step in growing Special Olympics worldwide. I always like to say that an event is something that happens once a lifetime, but a movement is something that keeps on going. I also know that coming to the World Games is not the only way to spread Special Olympics. We have to go back to our home towns and rally people up and get them involved.

"I am having the time of my life in Ireland. I love the people here and their great hospitality. The people of Ireland believe in true joy and happiness. It is not a match made in heaven, it's a match made in Ireland."



TEAM TAIWAN

Peter Chang, 11 & Wei Hsung Chen, 12

當我們來到2003夏季國際特殊奧林匹克運動會時候，我們還不認識單毅。只知道他是代表中國北京來參加特奧全球青少年高峰會議的運動員。到第二天，大家要走路去RDS媒體中心時，我們的監護人文馨姊姊怕威動無聊，於是要威動跟單毅牽手，他們兩個一路上談的很愉快，直到我們去吃飯。不過從他們分開回到各自的房間以後，威動就一直提到單毅的事。一開始我們覺得還不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，威動就急著找他的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，他也想證明，特奧運動員都能在運動中得到歡樂與成長！

TEAM POLAND

W dniu dzisiejszym przewidziane bylo (dla nas) obserwowanie zawodow kajakowych. Niestety zawody sie nie odbyly gdyz organizato zmienil ich termin na dzien nastepny. Mimo wszystko podroz byla mila (kierowca byl rewelacyjny – opowidal nam o Phenix Park – bylismy jedynymi pasazerami). Krajobraz ktory zobaczyliśmy jest bardzo, bardzo piekny. Jezioro bylo duze, a wszystko wygladalo na gotowe do zawodow. W osrodku panowal wielki ruch. Wolontariusze i organiaztorzy byli zajeci lecz zostalismy miło przyjeci. Jedna z wolontariuszek powiedziala nam, ze dopiero jutro beda pierwsze konkurencje. Jedyne co nam pozostalo to zwiedzic osrodek. I tak tez zrobilismy, widok byl bardzo ladny. Akwen wody bardzo duzy. W drodze powrotnej spotkalismy uczestnikow naszego programu z Alaski i Namibi.



Special Olympics
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THE STORIES



TEAM JORDAN

Fighting for Hala

For some families it was very hard to deal with the fact that their son or daughter is “disabled,” but the families we met in Dublin Castle were absolutely the opposite, and one of these family members was Mr. Mohammed Khalil Abdouni.

Mohammed Khalil Abdouni was born in Lebanon, and the reason why he has been involved in Special Olympics was his daughter Hala. However Mohammed Abdouni was a very energetic supporter of Special Olympics for 14 years. Anyway, the person who encouraged him to be part of Special Olympics was his very good friend Mohammed Naser, so Mr. Abdouni found that organization to be a very honorable one. As a result he decided to help Mr. Naser in his great goal from the army (Mohammed Abdouni was a general in the Lebanese Army), and that’s how Special Olympics Lebanon grew up.

Mr. Abdouni is trying very hard to make Special Olympics Lebanon the best Special Olympics Program in the Middle East/North Africa region. He wants to reach to every disabled person in this region and let him be part of Special Olympics Lebanon. Also he hopes that every mentally disabled person would feel able, feel like he owns the world. Moreover, he wishes that the fundraising of this great organization would be much better and everyone would support it.

At the end when I asked Mr. Abdouni about his dream in his life he said, “I just want the people to love each other, because love is the only link between each one’s life. Also it makes the people happy and secure.”

Mr. Abdouni, on behalf of everyone in the Global Youth Summit, we will spread your honorable message to our countries.



TEAM SOUTH AFRICA

Special Olympics South Africa’s soccer team started the tournament by losing their first two games against Israel and Bosnia. The team is composed of Oupa Ismael (23); Molefi Kgosi (18); Percy Monanthane (25); Mpho Letlake (24); Sipho Mahlangu; Bongani and Stephen Sithole (coach).

This is what they have to say:

“When we started, we made a lot of mistakes and we paid dearly by losing our first crucial games. But we are there and we are focused on the game. We are sure we will display our best football skill even if we couldn’t take a medal home. Since we regain from our two losses, we haven’t lost a game and we want to continue winning all the remaining games. We are going to guard against complacency. Our team is balanced so we don’t have to panic because it can cost us a game.

“We are enjoying ourselves here and we have already met a lot of friends around here. We hope this chance could be available to everyone.

“This is our first experience all of us. Oupa and Percy joined Special Olympics some six years ago whereas Molefi, Mpho and Sipho joined two years ago.

“We had some discrepancy on our preparations; we couldn’t train well due to transport problems because athletes couldn’t manage to transport themselves daily hence we practiced twice a week.”

Their coach couldn’t hide the joy he has because of the success of the team, making friends and getting the honors of the country in shirts, track suits, etc.

THE STORIES

TFAM ISRAELI

צ'ד, שווי ספרינג ...

ברקע של ים כחול, שמיים מעוננים וסירות מפרש ישבנו לדאין את צ'ד אנגליש מן דיגו, ארה"ב. סיפורו של צ'ד אינו שונה בתרבה מזה של ספורטאים אחרים בספיישל אולימפיק, אבל מפתיע כל פעם מחדש לראות כמה תחיים יכולים להשתנות בגלל קצת השקעה, רצון טוב ואמונה ולהוסיף טעם לחייו של בן אדם.

צ'ד בן 31 שייש בסירת מפרש, בעל עיניים כחולות ושיער בלונדיני שמע על התוכנית של הספיישל אולימפיק לפני 4 שנים, הוא אוהב את הים והמאמנת הצליחה להכניס אותו לתוך ענף הספורט הזה.

צ'ד גר עם אמו, הוא לומד בבי"ס הקהילתי מועדבים ומדעים, הוא התחיל את הלימודים ב-1992 ושנה הבאה הוא מסיים את תואר (פרטו לו לימודים של שנתיים ל 10-11 שנים). במשך היום הוא עובד במזנון, צווי לשטוף כלים ולפנות שולחנות.

השקס פתיחה היה מאוד מרגש, אני יודע שהספיישל אולימפיק עבדו קשה כדי שהשקס יצליח.הדרשתי מכמות האנשים, לא ציפיתי שיהיו כל כך הרבה, אני מאוד נרגה באירגול, האנשים כאן נחמדים.

מארה"ב הגיעו למשחקי הספיישל אולימפיק 26 שיימים, 13 ספורטאים ו-13 מלווים. צ'ד נמצא ברמה 3 והוא מקווה מאוד להצליח, "כשאני יוצא לים אני עוזר את הכי טוב שאפשר, יש הרבה אחריות אבל המאמנת מאמינה בו ודווקא שזה אפשרי. השכוח זכינו במקום השלישי".

אך אפשר לדפוד לעוד אנשים להשתתף בשנף ספורט הזה? זה ספורט מאתגר מאוד, לפעמים יש קשיים בגלל מזג האוויר, אבל כשיוצאים לים עושים את הכי טוב שאפשר. בארה"ב מנסים לפתוח תוכנית נוספת לשייט מעם הספיישל אולימפיק גם בקליפורניה.

אמנו כמו הפיד מאחלת לכולם בהצלחה!!!

Oh sail my ship!

Translation by Michal ben Hamo

In the blue sea, cloudy sky and sailing boats background we were sitting to interview Chad English from San Diego, California, USA. Chad's story is not much different from other athletes' stories in Special Olympics, but it is surprising — every time — to see how life can change due to some effort, good will and faith, and so to add some point to a human being's life.

Chad, 31 years old, with blue eyes and blonde hair, heard about Special Olympics four years ago. He loves the ocean and his lady coach managed to get him into this sports branch.

Chad lives with his mother, goes to community school and studies computer and science. He started his studies in 1992 and next year he is going to graduate (they have spread his studies to 10-11 years). During daytime he works in the cafeteria, helping wash the dishes and clean.

"The Opening Ceremonies was very exciting. I know that Special Olympics worked very hard to make the Ceremonies work. I was impressed by the amount of people. I didn't expect so many. I like Ireland very much; people here are very nice."

The USA sent 26 sailors, 13 athletes and 13 Unified Sports® partners to the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Chad is on level 3 and very much hopes to make it to the top: "When I go out to sea I do the best I can. There is a lot of responsibility, but the coach believes in us and thinks it's possible. This week we won third place."

We asked Chad how one can encourage people to participate in this sports field — sailing.

"This is a very challenging sport. Sometimes there are difficulties due to the weather, but once you're out to sea you do the best you can. In the U.S. they are trying to develop another program for sailing on behalf of the Special Olympics, also in California."

Chad, we are wishing you good luck!



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TEAM JAPAN

Did You Know There are 30,000 Volunteers Supporting the Games?

As the host for the upcoming 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games we are enjoying the World Summer Games as well as taking in the Irish volunteer experience.

Maureen Gradinar is one of those 30,000 heroes who put in countless efforts in making the Games happen. Ordinarily, she is a housewife in Lucan, but right now she is a volunteer in the guest lounge in the ESB Basketball Arena Tallaght. She found out about Special Olympics in the newspaper last year and decided she wants to become a part of this inspiring movement. Although she has been working from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., she shares, "I don't feel tired because I can meet the athletes and watch them play wonderfully as if they don't have disabilities."

She also tells us that her family supports and values her volunteer work. Their town participated in the Host Town Program and her family accommodated two Irish athletes and an Irish coach competing in football.

We inquired for her expertise on one particular potential difficulty — the language barrier. Obviously, communication will be the primary task for the next World Games as it will be the first time for Special Olympics competition at the world level to be held outside the English-speaking world. The questions we ask ourselves are: how do we generate a cross-language and cross-cultural dialogue?

"I think we can communicate better if they speak English," said Maureen. "But I think we will be able to share and enjoy the moment even if they don't."

True, from our own experience, we have strange feeling be here, as it is unfamiliar to us and we can't verbalize communication. However, we've learned that just like the spirit of Special Olympics, there's more similarity between the Irish and the Japanese than not. Body languages, images and sound effects are the alternative to language.

Will you be coming to the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan? we asked. "If I can get the money to go, yes, I will!"

26 JUNE

TEAM HONG KONG

Start to Join

Today we met Mr. Sidnby Minch of Ireland at the sailing competition venue. He lives in Dublin and he is age 63. He enjoyed watching sailing competition since his favorite sports are sailing and ruby. This time he went to the competition venue with his daughter-in-law.

Mr. Sidnby Minch thought that athletes competing in the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games will make their best of what they have. Moreover, his health is not in good condition and he is inspired at the effort of the others who can do more than him.

Mr. Sidnby Minch heard from the TV and radio that the 2003 World Games would be held in Dublin. He felt it's great and the major meaning is that this large-in-scale competition can make all people, including athletes, coaches and family members from different countries come together, exchange their cheerful experiences and help themselves to grow up. Since this is his first time to watch a Special Olympics competition, he is willing to be a volunteer next time, as are his family members. His family members also support Special Olympics very much, just like Mr. Sidnby Minch's daughter-in-law; she had to work today but she still spent time watching the competition and supporting the athletes.

We told them that the next Special Olympics World Summer Games (2007) will be held in Shanghai, China. They hadn't heard this news and hadn't decided if they will go or not. However, if he has plans to do so, he will attend the Games in Shanghai and also have a trip in China as well.

In this interview, we discovered how attractive the Special Olympics World Summer Games are, and the key point is how to promote it. Take Mr. Sidnby Minch, who never knew the exciting parts of the Special Olympics before. After he joined the activities, not only did he enjoy it, but he also wanted to be a volunteer. This has given us an important message, which is, the promotion plays an important role in the success of Special Olympics. Therefore, starting now, it is our responsibility to tell others how amazing Special Olympics is.

TEAM PERU

Fernando Gutierrez tiene 21 años, su cumpleaños es el 9 de junio. El es de Ecuador de la ciudad de Malna. Su deporte es el fútbol. Comenzó a practicar porque un amigo le invito y le gustó jugar. Practica hace seis años. El nombre de su profesor es Hugo Vera.

Irlanda le gusta porque la gente es calida, amable, y educada, también le gustan las chicas lindas que hay y la comida. Esta es la primera vez que el participa de los Juegos Mundiales y le encantó la apertura de los Juegos. Lo que más le gustó de la apertura fueron los colores de la banderas y el color de su bandera er rojo, las olas que hacían y además los globos que tiraron.

Dice que cuando vuelva a su país le va a contar a la gente que fue feliz, como obtuvo las medallas y que pasó bien con muchas chicas lindas.

El está en Olimpiadas Especiales desde grande y que se involucro gracias a un amigo. Le gusta formar parte de Olimpiadas Especiales porque hace muchos amigos y hace su deporte favorito.

Vive con su mamá y con su papá. Tiene cuatro hermanosy una hermana. Tiene una canción favorita que canta cuando baña y antes de dormir.



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TEAM CHILE

Amigos contra viento y marea

Michael Kennet, atleta de Olimpiadas Especiales del Reino Unido, descubrió que navegar es mucho más que preocuparse de la vela y el timón. A sus 25 años, está participando por primera vez en unos Juegos Mundiales de Verano. A diferencia de otros deportes de Olimpiadas Especiales que se practican individualmente, la navegación es un trabajo de equipo. El compañero unificado de Michael, Nic Jones, de 29 años, se encarga del timón del Firefly en que navegan por la bahía de Dublín, mientras Mike se preocupa de la vela: “la navegación requiere de una gran confianza entre el atleta y su compañero. Nosotros la tenemos, porque somos grandes amigos”, nos contó Nic cuando le preguntamos si era difícil dirigir un bote como un Firefly entre dos personas.

Sobre lo mismo, Michael nos dijo que una de las razones por las que le gusta mucho practicar este deporte, es que puede compartir con Nic: “A veces me da un poco de miedo cuando hay mucho viento, pero me siento más seguro al estar acompañado de Nic en el bote”.

Michael y Nic se conocieron en entrenamientos de atletismo hace ya algunos años: Nic como entrenador y Michael como atleta. Comenzaron a navegar juntos cuando Michael tenía 21 años, luego de practicar fútbol, básquetbol, tenis y salto largo. Después de cuatro años de entrenamiento, Mike está orgulloso de competir en Irlanda en estos juegos mundiales, y se siente tranquilo, porque sabe que ha trabajado mucho para llegar a donde está.

Friends — come rain, shine ... or wind

Michael Kennet discovered that sailing is much more than taking care of the sail and the rudder. At the age of 25, he has been practicing sailing for four years and is participating in the Special Olympics World Summer Games for the first time. He and his Unified Sports® partner, Nic Jones, are one of the four crews representing Special Olympics Great Britain.

Unlike other sports, which are usually individually oriented, sailing requires teamwork. Twenty-nine-year-old Nic Jones controls the rudder of the Firefly they both sail, while Michael takes care of the sail. Together, they navigate through Dublin Harbour, where the sailing competition takes place.

“Sailing takes great confidence between the crews,” says Nic. “Since we’re good friends, we do trust in each other,” he told us when we asked him whether it was difficult to sail a boat like a Firefly with two persons or not.

Michael shared his partner’s view on the same question. He told us that one of the reasons he likes sailing so much is that he can share his time with Nic. “Sometimes I get a little scared when there is too much wind, but I feel secure because Nic is in the boat with me,” says Michael.

Michael and Nic met each other during athletics training a couple of years ago. Nic was the coach and Michael was the athlete. They started to sail together when Michael was 21 after practicing football, basketball, tennis and long jump. After four years of hard training, Michael is proud of being part of these World Games in Ireland. Michael Kennet now feels secure, because he knows he has worked hard to get where he is now.

TEAM EGYPT

Lord of the Seas

When I was walking in the place where sailing competitions take place, I met Jay Nothnagle. He is a great sailor. He was getting ready to get onto the sea to compete and win.

“I am an athlete from Special Olympics Massachusetts. I live in Boston. I am 29 years old. I have a younger brother and an older sister.

“I like sailing very much. I have been sailing since I was a kid, but my first time participating in Special Olympics was in 1996. I sail with my father. Yesterday I sailed in the VIP race and I came in third. I also won a gold medal in the 1999 Special Olympics World Games. I participated in many state competitions.

“Besides sailing, I also like swimming and bowling. I like to listen to music; my favorite kind of music is reggae music. I also have a job in a market.”

In my opinion I think that Jay will be a great sailor in the future, because of his determination and strong will.