

# THE STORIES

## TEAM ALASKA

Sitting with her coach, Jennifer S. Moug waited patiently for her results in the equitation competition at the 2003 Special Olympic World Summer Games in Ireland. Jennifer had not yet been made aware that she had indeed received gold in her event. Her division had four people, coming from Italy, the United States, and a fellow competitor from Great Britain. She had just won the gold in horse trials and will be competing in dressage this Saturday at the equestrian venue.

"My name is Jennifer S. Moug and I am 16 years old. I was born in Scotland and have been living there ever since. Back home I live with my mom, dad and younger sister who are not present at the Games. They wanted to attend but I spoke against it because it makes me nervous to have them watch.

"I was mainstreamed into Perth High School of 500 students where I had a normal schedule and classes. One of the many classes I took was French, which I don't like. At times, I was the only person with a mental disability in my class of 30. I am involved in a lunchtime club which brings people with and without disabilities together to participate in activities such as games, drawing pictures and playing on the computer. Our club is just beginning and it ranges in the amount of students who participate. I am trying to help make it grow by encouraging my friends to come. This club also helps me make new friends.

"I have been involved in Special Olympics for five years but I have been riding horses for nine years. A year ago I qualified to come to Ireland to compete in the World Summer Games. To prepare I practiced once a week for one hour. So far my favorite part about Ireland has been my time in Galway, our host town. I have also enjoyed getting to meet so many new people.

"In my spare time I enjoy playing on the computer, especially surfing the Web. I also enjoy hanging out with my friends. We go shopping, to the movies and to the fair.

"My favorite food is burgers and chips. My favorite movie is Seeing Double. I love to listen to the music from the band S Club Seven."

This fall, Jennifer will be attending Perth College. The first year she will participate in a special needs course where she will have working experience. When you are 16 you can leave school and go to college if you wish. She will be working in a nursery which is right down the street from the college. She will then continue on to study childcare. When asked what she wants more than anything in the world Jennifer replied with a smile, "a horse."

## TEAM LEBANON

### *What's Wrong with Timmy?*

Be the Difference  
Make the Difference  
Connect With Difference

This is the target of *What's Wrong with Timmy?*

In Ireland at the Special Olympics Festival Village Maria Shriver launched her book before a huge crowd of people. Global Youth Summit interviewers Hiba Sami Hammoud (16) and Jawdat al Hajj (14) were there to cover this event.

Maria Shriver shows us in this book how friendship can be established between disabled persons and others without disabilities, and she insists on the things in common between people more than the difference.

In conversation we asked her what she hopes to accomplish with this book. "I hope to get every family in the world to read this book and to discuss it at home and to every child who is disabled to reach out with who are not disabled and hope for them to be tolerant in this crucial world."



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## TEAM TENNESSEE

Today we visited the football venue at the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games. While there we meet Cody Shcaitt, age 17, and Ross Clubb, age 20. Both are from Texas. Cody has been involved with Special Olympics for over two years. He got involved "because he loved making people feel good about themselves." Ross has been involved with Special Olympics for five years. He started playing soccer and later a friend got him involved in both volleyball and basketball.

Cody and Ross meet while training for World Games. They have been training together for over a year. Although Cody and Ross do not attend the same school they have turned into good friends through Special Olympics. One of Cody's greatest pleasures is helping the athletes have fun and enjoy the game. When asked how he would broaden Special Olympics' appeal, Cody stated he would take films of the many different sporting events and show them to high schools across the United States.

Without having the experience of Special Olympics, these two athletes would not have grown to be such great friends.

As a Special Olympics Global Messenger, Troy Ford-King, 26, is used to talking about the great things Special Olympics accomplishes and what the organization means to him. Troy has participated in the Special Olympics for the past 10 years. He got involved when a friend of his mother's asked him to join a Special Olympics bowling team. While presenting awards as an Honorary Guest at the Kills International Equestrian Centre, Troy took time to talk with the Global Youth Summit about his experiences with the 2003 World Games and his participation in his local Special Olympics.

"It's great to have the games in Ireland. It lets people get out and spread the word of Special Olympics.

"The Toronto community is very good with Special Olympics. The town is very supportive.

"Special Olympics is a place that I can show my talent and ability. When I was on a normal baseball team I didn't get to play and I was made fun of because I was not as good as everyone else. But with Special Olympics, I am welcomed and I do a good job."

The Global Summit asked Troy how he would let people know more about Special Olympics and spread the word in his community.

"Put up signs, like big billboards, that let everyone know Special Olympics is in town. Also athletes, like myself, could go to different schools and speak, letting people know what it is and how to get involved."

Troy also was asked what he would change about Special Olympics.

"I participated as a Global Messenger at the 2001 Winter Games in Alaska. And I think it is unfair that the Winter Games only last a week. I realize the Summer Games have more sports, but the Winter Games athletes need more than a week to show off their talents."

Besides the equestrian venue, Troy will be presenting at Morton Stadium on Friday and the National Aquatics Centre on Saturday. Besides being a Global Messenger and presenter, Troy also competes in athletics, softball, skiing, basketball and floor hockey.

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## TEAM JORDAN

### Living with a Disability

Being born and finding that you have a disabled brother must be difficult — fear, people teasing you. But Jeanne Warren didn't feel like that at all; on the contrary she felt honored and lucky.

Jeanne Warren, 38, is from the United States of America. Her brother, Mike, is the one who is disabled in their family. He was sent to a regular school and "people used to tease him," says Jeanne, "but I didn't do anything. I feel guilty now so that's the reason why I don't miss any of his Games. I want to be with him all the time, to protect him and support him."

Mike at first was a very hard-going person but Special Olympics changed him, Jeanne said. "At first he used to be aggressive, but after we got him in Special Olympics, he became friendlier, and also very social. In Special Olympics they taught him how to be a role model to everyone. He has a better attitude now."

Jeanne is really proud of her brother. "If we had the chance to turn back the clock and switch my brother with a regular person, I would say no because he is one of the most incredible human beings I have ever met. He has a very good attitude, he's so competitive and, most of all, he is a social butterfly."

Jeanne is really glad for what Special Olympics is doing for these who are denied their rights and for giving them the encouragement and confidence they need.



## TEAM CHINA

### 特奥精神在都柏林的上空飘扬

"让我胜利,如果不能,请让我在过程中获得勇气。"这是特殊奥林匹克运动会的精神,而土耳其队和俄罗斯队在26日上午进行的比赛则是对这句话最好的诠释。

比赛是在都柏林市的ESB Basketball Arena举行的,刚开场土耳其一度占据主动,并在4分钟内打出了8:0的小高潮,尤其是土队的15号队员内突外投,表现极为抢眼。中场结束,土耳其队以领先俄罗斯队12分的优势进入下半场的比赛。

继续投入比赛的俄罗斯队展开了大举反扑,技术动作也相对上半时凶狠许多,以至于在下半时刚刚开始5分钟,俄罗斯队的11号队员由于技术动作不规范造成了土队的一名队员的受伤。当很多人围上去的时候,这名倒地的运动员始终重复着一句话,"我能站起来"。但他还是因为伤势过重,在全场观众的掌声中被台下场休息。最终比赛是以土耳其队的胜利宣告结束。

赛后当俄罗斯队的11号队员接受采访时多次询问了受伤运动员的伤势情况,并表示了自己的歉意。(郭铁彪REPORT 2003.6.26)

## TEAM SOUTH AFRICA

This is what they have to say:

"Our child Wendy joined Special Olympics 20 years ago at the age of 14. She has already won bronze medal in athletics for the 50m sprint and was disqualified in 100m for stepping in prohibited field during the race.

"This is not her first Special Olympics medal as she has collected three gold medals at the 2001 World Winter Games in Anchorage, Alaska, in downhill ski, giant slalom ski and the slalom ski.

"We had frustrating times when she was still young at home. Other children couldn't understand her and they always fought her. The same treatment was incurred as she went to school. She always complained of the bad treatment she was getting from the peers at school.

"She even indicated that she don't want to go to school because the students called her names. However we are now so happy because some of the friends who scolded her now come when she is a grownup and apologize for all the treatment they gave her.

"Other children brought her to participate in church activities with a full understanding of her abilities and her shortcomings, and we also encouraged all the parents to allow their children to participate with everyone as it helps children to understand each other at a younger age."



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## TEAM TAIWAN

Peter Chang, 11 & Wei Hsung Chen, 12

第一個華人騎術隊

*Translation by: Joy Chiou*

26歲的台灣張兆遠教練，第一次指導二位運動員參加世界夏季特殊奧運馬術比賽，對於台灣代表隊受到SARS影響直至6/24才踏上愛爾蘭的土地，進入一個沒有華人臉孔的特奧運動項目，成為華人國家的先鋒，他的臉上難掩內心對特殊奧運的感動。「當運動員完成比賽的那一刻，我一定會掉下眼淚」他邊說眼睛邊泛著淚光，這是他的第一步，也是台灣智能障礙者有機會接觸特殊奧運馬術項目向前跨的一大步。

曾經認為不可能引領智障運動員出國比賽的他，跨越自己的障礙實現曾經被認為是不可能的任務，甚至引領運動員參加馬術比賽最高的A級項目，張教練說：「透過幫馬兒打掃馬廄並學習用馬的語言跟馬兒相處，馬是有感覺的，雖然他不會說話，但是騎馬的人應該學會怎麼與馬兒相互對待」，而比賽就是必須做到人馬合一，行進流暢協調。台灣馬術運動員是受到全場矚目的唯一東方臉孔，準備和運動員同心上場完成比賽的緊張情緒，我看到他的堅持和信心。

學美工作的他放棄設計師這一行，在偶然的機會接觸智障者和馬術運動，看到運動員在接觸特殊奧運馬術之後的進步使他確信從事啟智中心輔導員的工作，中心曾經聘請多位專業馬術教練教導他們騎馬，然而這些專業教練們對智障者的認知及學習馬術的能力沒有信心，一一離開，張教練作為一個馬術生手，曾經因此沮喪、心情低落，透過不斷請教學習，現在路上連國家奧運選手都無法參與的高級馬術場地，他與有榮焉。

, a 26-year-old coach of the Chinese Taipei team, Alain Chang, advises two athletes participating in the World Summer Games equestrian event. Because of SARS effect, Chinese Taipei team finally touched down on Irish soil on 24 June. Chang's face showed excitement and emotion to be at the World Games. "When my athletes complete the Games, I think I'll cry certainly," he said with tearful eyes. This was his first step, also a big step for individuals with mental retardation having the chance to be involved in equestrian events in Taiwan.

He thought it was impossible to take athletes to the Games. But he crossed the barriers and practiced the impossible tasks. Especially he guided athletes to attend grade A of equestrian event. Chang said, "Through cleaning up stables and talking to horses, horseback riders learn how to deal with horses. Even though they cannot talk, they have feelings." When playing games, you have to do it easily and smoothly in keeping with horses. Taiwan equestrian athletes were the only Orientals to be gazed at by the whole audience. Chang was ready to complete the games with his mind and the athletes, even though he was nervous, but I saw his confidence and insisting.

He gave up his art-designing job to be an instructor at the mental retardation center. After he saw the progress of Special Olympics equestrian athletes, he was confident to keep this job going. The center employed many professional equestrian coaches to teach them how to ride horses. But those coaches didn't know about people with mental retardation and had no confidence that they could learn horse riding. They left one after another. Chang was depressed and upset. But through consulting others, his athletes learned and competed in a world-class equestrian event. He felt very proud.

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## TEAM PERU

### Plumas que Caen del Cielo...

Hoy llegamos muy temprano al centro de bádminton y tuvimos la suerte de conocer y ver a los calentar antes de que empiecen sus partidos. Dentro de todos estos atletas tuvimos el placer de entrevistar a Jordi Tenias. Jordi tiene treinta y cinco años viene de Andorra, España y su cumpleaños es el veintitrés de octubre.

Jordi ha estado involucrado en los deportes toda su vida. Desde que estuvo en el colegio tuvo la oportunidad de unirse a diferentes deportes gracias a un movimiento de Olimpiadas Especiales en su escuela. Asimismo, Jordi tiene un antecedente impresionante en los deportes ya que ha participado en muchos torneos Europeos y en varios a tenido la oportunidad de subirse al podio a recibir medallas de primer, segundo y tercer lugar. Jordi nos contó que ama en bádminton por que las reglas lo hacen mucho más interesante. El bádminton para hombres es hasta los quince puntos. Para ganar un punto uno primero tiene que recuperar el saque y si tu puntuación es par sacas de la derecha y si es impar sacas del lado izquierdo.

Jordi también nos contó que le fascina la natación, el fútbol, el básquet, el tenis de mesa, el billar e ir al cine a ver películas de acción, sobretodo películas de Silvester Stallone, su actor favorito. Todo un hombre multifacético.

Jordi estaba muy contenta por que España lo ayudaba mucho en los deportes y en apoyar a los niños especiales. El piensa que el tener a su familia con él, siempre apoyándolo y celebrándole sus triunfos hace que todo sea más fácil y tranquilo para el.

Finalmente, Jordi nos dijo con mucho entusiasmo que nunca va a olvidar la ceremonia de inauguración ya que le pareció bellísima y que siempre tendrá la calidez y el espíritu fiestero de Irlanda en su corazón.

## TEAM ITALY

### Santilli Diego, 16 & Troiano Alessandro, 18

#### Buona fortuna a tutti gli atleti!

I partecipanti al Global Youth Summit del team Italia, Diego Santilli(16) e Alessandro Troiano(18) hanno intervistato l' atleta Abdue Aerhnam di Special Olympics dell' Arabia Saudita.

Abdue ha iniziato a partecipare ai giochi di Special Olympics sette anni fa. All' inizio, il primo sport che ha praticato è stata l'atletica; da un anno ha iniziato a giocare a calcio.

Egli ha partecipato ai Giochi Mondiali del 1999 in North Caroline (USA) dove ha vinto una medaglia d'oro in atletica. Ora Abdue spera di vincere un'altra medaglia con la squadra saudita di calcio.

Io mi chiamo Abdue e sono un giocatore di calcio in questi Giochi Mondiali di Dublino del 2003. Sono nato il 13 Giugno del 1977.

Ho iniziato a praticare l'atletica, ma ora non posso esercitarla molto perchè il mio sport preferito è il calcio.

Ho partecipato alla cerimonia di aperture di questi Giochi e voglio fare I miei complimenti personali a tutti gli organizzatori perchè è stata veramente eccezionale. In particolare, mi sono molti piaciuti gli ingressi allo stadio sia di Nelson Mandela che della torcia olimpica, così come i fuochi pirotecnici.

Vivo con la mia famiglia, e cioè, con mia moglie e mio figlio che ha 2 anni. Mi sono sposato 3 anni fa. Amo la mia famiglia.

Lavoro in un'organizzazione governativa per disabili.

Desidero esprimere un "In bocca al lupo" a tutti gli atleti di questi giochi e, perchè no, anche a me per vincere un'altra medaglia d'oro.



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## TEAM PARAGUAY

### El Voluntario es mi Vocación

Nos comento con mucha alegría El Sr. Hugo Matasol Presidente de Olimpadas Especiales en el Salvador. Conociendolo un poco nos comentaba que su profesión es la Odontología y lo ejerce hasta hoy día con mucho amor, siente que a través de esa profesión logró descubrir y entender que el voluntariado lo siente como una obligación, porque a diario con los pacientes uno presta mucho de voluntariado.

Tengo una familia hermosa!, lo dijo con una sonrisa en los labios, tiene una esposa con quien ha compartido ya treinta y dos años de su vida, han traído al mundo cuatro hermosos hijos, dos mozos y dos bellas niñas, ellos son su máxima felicidad. Ya tienen cuatro hermosos nietos con quienes pueden hacer todo lo que no hicieron con sus hijos, "los malcriamos muchísimos dándoles todo el gusto y mucho cariño".

En mi tiempo libre me gusta leer y los domingos generalmente vamos a la playa con toda la familia, donde compartimos, nos divertimos y recargamos las pilas para una nueva semana.

Conoció Olimpadas Especiales a través de los medios de comunicación, hace mucho tiempo, pero nunca tuvo un contacto cercano porque trabajaba intensamente en el Club de Leones. Recién cuando en un momento no tenía mucha actividad dentro del Club un concunado suyo le comentó todas las actividades que realizan dentro del Programa de Olimpadas, y le invitó a participar de una reunión para que conociera, el Sr. Hugo lo aceptó, al cabo de unos días ya recibió una invitación muy formal para participar de la primera reunión. Dijo entre sonrisas: "Olimpadas nunca pierde su tiempo son muy rápidos para atraparle a uno"

Así fue como asistió a su primera reunión. En ese tiempo justamente había cambio de Junta Directiva y rápidamente propusieron el nombre del Sr. Hugo. Las elecciones estuvieron a favor suyo y lo eligieron como el Nuevo Presidente de Olimpadas Especiales del Salvador, así ha llegado a su vida OLIMPIADAS ESPECIALES.

Como sabemos el trabajo dentro del Programa de Olimpadas es muy duro y se precisa de mucho tiempo, le preguntamos cómo lo hacía para no descuidar su familia, su profesión, y su recreación. Nos dijo que él utilizó el "Tiempo Integral", explicó que asiste a las reuniones obligatorias todos los lunes y ahí también delega o distribuye las tareas a cada uno de los voluntarios comprometidos, estoy siempre a lado del teléfono en todo momento así que ahí conversamos todo lo necesario y en su consultorio es segunda oficina entre dientes y pacientes estoy disponible para firmar lo necesario o solucionar algún problema, él afirma que evidentemente esto no funciona solo con el presidente, Olimpadas es una gran familia donde todos ponen su granito de arena para salir adelante, comentó.

Su función específica como presidente es buscar estrategias para que todos nuestros jóvenes sean excelentes ciudadanos y disciplinados a través de las prácticas deportivas.

En el Salvador el programa ha llegado a dos mil quinientos atletas (2500), a cinco (5) departamentos del país. Reciben apoyos concretos para el mejor desarrollo del programa. Los Juegos Nacionales se realizaron en el mes de octubre donde participaron mil trescientas (1300) atletas. Según las estadísticas realizadas la población ha crecido casi el doble..

Los preparativos para los Juegos Mundiales lo realizaron desde el momento que supieron dónde y cuando serían los Juegos., pero fue más concreto todo el trabajo desde hace un año y ocho meses aproximadamente

El apoyo de la gente en general, del estado, de las empresas privadas fueron buenas, hubo una respuesta concreta. Por ejemplo la Secretaría Nacional de la Familia donde la Primera Dama de la nación lleva adelante este programa la Sra. Lourdes Flores, a través de su persona consiguió dinero en efectivo, que fue de mucha utilidad para la Delegación, también hay que destacar la presencia de la Primera aquí en Irlanda, quien acompaña constantemente a sus compatriotas.

Es claro que nunca logramos cubrir todos los gastos pero gracias a la generosa colaboración de todos ellos están aquí los atletas.

La delegación está conformada por 63 personas incluidos los entrenadores y representarán los deportes como tenis, fútbol, atletismo, gimnasia artística y rítmica y natación. Todos los atletas, entrenadores los están pasando muy bien, las atenciones que están recibiendo son magníficas, la gente es muy agradable, cuando uno camina por las calles las personas saludan como si nos conocieran desde hace tiempo, se siente la gran familia de Olimpadas en todas partes.

El Sr. Hugo con un gran suspiro agregó que valió la pena todo el esfuerzo realizado en su país.

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## פרויקט את

מדוע לראות עי כמה אנחנו דומים בכל העולם, לכולנו יש את אותן התלכדות, בעיות הדומים, היום נפגשנו עם גבריאל ואמי בן 29 מלומברדיה, איטליה, שחקן טניס, גבריאל נולד עם המגפת דאון, בן למשפחה חמה, הנמכת האוזבת, הדודי ואודן הבינו לאיילנד כדי לעשות בו ספאק, יושבים בקהל מסתכלים עליו כהערה רכה והנעקים לו Go,Go,Go כשהוא רוקע בכדור לעבר יריבו,



לגבריאל יש שתי אחיות ושני אחים, אחן מהם בתפקיד מנהל במסיייל אולימפיק באיטליה, אביו סוב עליו שני ספרים המתארים את התמודדות עם גידול ילדים עם המגפת דאון, אמו של גבריאל אמרה למאמן שלה (דניאל סמפאיו) שגבריאל הוא החבר הכי יפה שקישר למשפחה, והיום יגידו מביני קשר שלא זה קרוב את כלם.

גבריאל שחקן טניס מגיל צעיר אך לפני שהתחיל לשחק טניס היה שחקן הכדור במדלית זהב בעמקן קרולינה ב-1999. ההחלטה לעשות עם ספורט קריירה בזמן אירוע טניס של המסיייל אולימפיק שם ממש את דניאל סמפאיו המאמן שלו כיום. לדניאל טיפן רב באימון ספורטאים עם פיגור שכלי, וכשראה את גבריאל החליט מבע, יריבו עם המשפחה והחל לאמן אותו. בזמן לשיעור הטניס הוא עומד גם סקי, בקיצור סמפאיו אשילו. חוץ מספורט הוא עובד במרכז ספורט בעיר, בעבודתו ניקיין.

זו המעט הראשונה שגבריאל ממונתף באולימפיקה כשחקן טניס, הוא רוצה להשיג את הכי טוב שאפשר. ביום הראשון שהגיע לאיילנד אפרי לטולם שיבוא את מדלית הזהב!! לגבריאל יש כוחות של מכות, הוא טובה מאוד בסקס הפוריה, זו קרינה הרגשה מדהימה כשקור לראות את יו 2. לאולימפיקה הגיעו 100 אטלטים מאיטליה ומעומם רק שני שחקני טניס (גבריאל ושחקנית נוספת), מבריתם גם זו העלזה העובדה למסיייל אולימפיק באיטליה כי יש בעיות מנהליות ושייך אין תחרויות טניס. למעשה דניאל הוא המאמן היחיד שעבד עם מניאסים בעלי צרכים מיוחדים, וכיום הוא מכווץ טאמנים נוספים.

שאלנו את דניאל מדוע היה לו חשוב כל כך להגיע למשחקים באיילנד? דניאל: היה לי חשוב למגיש טאמנים אחרים מרחבי העולם כדי שאוכל לשפר את הטניס באיטליה אני רוצה לעשות צעד גדול וללמוד כיצד לאמן טאמנים טוב יותר לעבוד עם ספורטאים בעלי פיגור שכלי. כשהגיע לאולימפיקה באיילנד פגשתי התלהבות בלתי צפויה מצד המאמנים והיתה הרכה אנרגיה מבינה. בפרץ היה אידוע גדול ברומא של המסיייל אולימפיק שיכלול גם אורחים בינלאומיים.

אנחנו מאחלות לגבריאל בהצלחה ולניצחון המשותף את העולם ולקדם את עמי הטניס. במסיייל אולימפיק באיטליה!!

It was amazing to see how we all look alike all over the world. We all have the same dilemmas, troubles and needs. Today we met Gabriele Viatti, 29, from Lombardia, Italy. He is a tennis player.

Gabriele was born with Down syndrome, a son of a loving, warm and supportive family. His parents and brothers arrived in Ireland to watch him play. They sit in the audience and watch him with great admiration and yell, "Go, go, go," as he punches the ball toward his rival.

Gabriele has two sisters and two brothers. One of them is a manager with Special Olympics Italy. His father wrote two books about him, which describe coping with raising children with Down syndrome. Gabriel's mother said to his coach (Daniel Sampayo) that Gabriele is the most beautiful thing that happened to the family, and that they have created a beautiful bonding around him, something that has brought everyone closer to each other.

Gabriele has played tennis since a young age, but before starting to play tennis he was a swimmer and won a gold medal at the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games in North Carolina, USA. The decision to change sports happened during a Special Olympics tennis event, where Gabriele met Daniel Sampayo, his current coach. Daniel has a lot of experience coaching athletes with mental retardation, and when he saw Gabriele he got excited, spoke with the family and started coaching him.

In addition to swimming and playing tennis, Gabriel also goes skiing. In short, he is a real athlete! Besides sports, he also works in the town sports center, doing some cleaning jobs.

This is Gabriele's first time in the Special Olympics World Games as a tennis player. He wants to be the best there is. On his first day in Ireland he told everyone that he would win the gold medal! Gabriele certainly has a winner's attitude.

He liked the Opening Ceremonies very much; it was a sensational feeling, especially seeing U2!

Special Olympics Italy sent 100 athletes to the World Games, and only two of them are tennis players (Gabriel and a female player). From their point of view, this is an important success for Special Olympics Italy, because



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there are some managing problems and still no tennis matches. In fact, Daniel is the only coach who has worked with athletes with special needs, and today he trains other coaches.

We asked Daniel why it was so important for him to get into the 2003 Special Olympics World Games in Ireland. "It was important for me to meet other coaches from all over the world so I could improve the tennis field in Italy," he said. "I want to make a big step and to learn more about training coaches to work with athletes with mental retardation."

When he arrived in Ireland he found an unexpected enthusiasm coming from the coaches and there was a lot of energy around. This coming March there is going to be a big Special Olympics event in Rome, which also will include international guests.

We wish Gabriele the best of luck and hope that he will succeed in making his dream come true and promote tennis in Special Olympics Italy!



## TEAM HONG KONG

### Super Coach

Mr. Phil D. Hisey is the table tennis coach of Special Olympics Texas. This time he led four male athletes to take part in the table tennis competition.

Mr. Phil D. Hisey graduated from college majoring in physical education and he has been a full-time coach for athletes with mental retardation for at least 25 years. Actually he is not only a table tennis coach, but also a coach for bowling, basketball, gymnastics, bocce, track and field, and swimming. He enjoys his job very much because he feels that working for athletes with mental retardation is very meaningful and he can get a sense of success from them. He enjoys when he meets children who at first do not know how to play sports, then trains them to become athletes who can compete in Special Olympics Games. When they get any medals, he feels very happy and is proud of them.

During his teaching life, he admitted that there must be a lot of difficulties. He showed that different athletes have their own talents and characters. For example, of his four athletes, two have comparatively high talents and they are good at skills, while others still have room for improvement. He needs to use different teaching methods to train and get along with them. The key point is that he should teach one to one. Moreover, he just teaches them one skill in each lesson in order to let them become familiar with the skill. Phil is glad to see that his athletes have improved gradually. When the athletes do something wrong and just have a little progress, he does not feel angry, and just explains and encourages them to do their best. It's very important to teach a positive attitude to the athletes.

Twenty-five years ago, Phil experienced teaching baseball for children without mental retardation. Comparing the teaching methods between these children and athletes with mental retardation, the main difference is that he can give more instructions to children without mental retardation at the same time, while he can just give one instruction or skill to the athletes with mental retardation with patience each time.

From this story, we can see that patience is the first key to working with athletes with mental retardation. It is said that praises are always more effective than punishment in education. There is no exception when we teach athletes with mental retardation. We should remember the objective of Special Olympics is not to compare with others, but to "let them try" and "do your best." So encouragement should be given, and let our athletes enjoy the games all the time. Mr. Phil D. Hisey has already shown us a right way.



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## TEAM ALASKA

### Just Volunteer

Not all the athletes participating in the Special Olympic World Summer Games are competing while they are in Ireland this week. At the Kill Equestrian Center in Kill County, Kildare, six of the athletes are volunteers, helping with the many duties of keeping the Games and activities running smoothly.

Sinead (Schae-nade) Fitzgerald, 25, is one of those athletes. Sinead volunteers with her mother at the Media Box at the center.

"It is the best place to help," she declares. When asked how she went about volunteering for the Games, Sinead simply replied, "I just volunteered!" Every day during the Games, Sinead comes to the center with her mother, Frances, from their home in Woodland. Here she helps with running messages, greeting people and doing some other necessary odd jobs at the Media Box.

"It is the best job and I like doing it." She also helps serving the guests food in the guest room when the opportunity arises.

Born in Ireland, Sinead, 25, attended a school for special needs students before general and special education were integrated in Ireland. Her mother regrets that she did not get to go to school with her brothers and sisters, to meet and make more friends without disabilities, or to have the opportunity to be involved in a larger variety of activities. Now Sinead attends a training center for individuals with disabilities. In addition, she also is involved in more recreational activities such as swimming and bowling, as well as training for a job.

"I did have a job in a grocery store a while ago," Sinead shared, "but now I want to work in a restaurant," she added.

When not volunteering, Sinead likes to play video games, watch movies and play with her dog, Monty. "He can sit, beg and bark. He is a King Charles Spaniel." She also likes to garden "when in the mood."

What would Sinead be doing if not going to school, playing sports or volunteering? "I would be bored!" she declared.

### Powerlifting

Sitting at the powerlifting venue, Gary Haynes watches his fellow lifters at the 2003 Special Olympic World Summer Games. Gary had competed earlier in the week in the squat, bench press and dead lift, taking home the gold in all three events, plus a gold medal for the best overall. Gary comes from the great country of Great Britain.

"My name is Gary Haynes and I am 38 years old. I have been in Special Olympics for 19 years. I have participated in swimming, athletics and football. In 1989, I was a state champion for swimming in freestyle. I am also a gold medalist for athletics at the regional level.

"I went to a special school from the beginning of my schooling career until I was 19 years old. It was a good school and I learned a lot. Now I go to a training center during the day where I do woodwork, making items like bird trays and windmills. They are sold from the center and I get a small profit which is perfect for me.

A few days a week I go to a college to study. I live at home with my mom and dad. I also have two brothers and one sister.

"In my free time I enjoy playing pool and going to bingo. I have lots of friends at bingo. My favorite food is a chicken salad because it is good for me. My favorite thing in the world is listening to music. I listen to all types of music. What I want more than anything in the world is a ping pong table."

Gary began power lifting 14 years ago and has been doing it ever since. He had to qualify at the national level to be able to come to Ireland for the World Games. Gary practiced twice a week in order to prepare. When asked what his plans are for the future, his mom, Mrs. Colleen Haynes, replied, "We go on a day-to-day basis."



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