

THE STORIES

TEAM ISRAEL

Dan Leibovich, Kibutz Manara, Israel

A new star was born...

After hearing from Adi Yeger (Vice President of Special Olympics Israel) all about the impressive basketball game of the Special Olympics Israel team versus the Special Olympics Italy team and all about the almost impossible win, we could not help ourselves and just had to interview Dan Leibovich, a player and assistant to the coach of the Special Olympics Israel team. Dan has undoubtedly brought the big win to the team!

As with most of the basketball players, our Dan is tall — rising up to the sky, and with his smooth tongue he managed to tell us all about his excitement for the Special Olympics World Games and the game versus Special Olympics Italy in particular.

“At halftime of the game our team was 20 points behind, and then what seemed to be the impossible became reality!”

Dan proved his ability, scoring 25 points and making three blocks in spite of the massive guarding of the Special Olympics Italy team and brought, along with his team mates, the victory to his team.

How did you get to the Special Olympic World Games?

“Two years ago I moved to Shafririm School in Givat Haim, and the gym teachers told me they wanted me for Special Olympics. Before moving to Shafririm, I played football on the Hapoel Upper Galilee team. When I got involved with Special Olympics I was very happy and my family supported me.”

How does it feel to be in Ireland?

“I’m very glad to be here. Before traveling here, I told my coach (Dani Liberman), ‘When I’ll be in Ireland I’ll show everyone who I am.’ I can do a lot of things and I have proven to everyone that you can also win after being 17 points down; that was incredible! To myself, I said, ‘I’m crossing my fingers for everyone’s sake and am going to take the responsibility to get the championship.’”

“The Opening Ceremonies were impressive. Everyone wants to march in a stadium full of 70,000 people and to see stars such as U2 and Pierce Brosnan. Before traveling to Ireland we went to meet the Minister of Education, Mrs. Limor Livnat, and I told her that I am going to bring the medal and to be the world champion. The Special Olympics slogan is give the power and power to win!”

Dan lives with a foster family in Carcur, the Oded family: “I love them and they love me. I am going home for the weekends. I have a twin brother (Leibo) and a sister.”

Besides basketball I also love to swim, watch movies, listen to music, go hiking and hang out.

Do you have a message that you would like to deliver to other athletes who weren’t able to come to the Special Olympics World Games?

That anyone can do it if they want to.

TEAM MISSOURI

Andrea has waited a long time for this well-deserved medal. She has been competing in Special Olympics for many years but tennis is a new sport for her. When she began tennis three years ago she never believed that she would be taking home a medal from the World Games in Ireland.

Andrea has participated in basketball, bowling, track and field, and golf, but right now her favorite sport is tennis. She commented that she has been practicing every day for her individual skills event and is so glad that she practiced so much.

When asked if she was proud of her medal she replied: “Oh Yeah!”

“I like doing the ups and downs in tennis; that is what I call the racket bounce. I like my coach, Kathy Meyer, and I am glad we are here. I liked meeting all of the stars and Maria Shriver was the best.”

Coach Kathy Meyer said, “I am really glad that I’ve gotten to know Andrea and I’ve enjoyed coaching her at the World Games.”



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SHALOM FROM ISRAEL

Special Olympics is a great organization that combines a lot of people from different countries. The Global Youth Summit has made this opportunity real; however, it was hard to communicate with the other delegations because of the language barrier, but that didn't stop us from communicating.

All the way from Israel came Michal Ben Hamo, 31. She lives in Hadera, a very beautiful area which lies on the Mediterranean Sea. She lives with her family, which consists of two sisters and her parents. Her hobbies are reading, traveling and massage. Michal has volunteered since 2001 teaching reading and writing in the Democratic School.

She plans to promote integration in her area as much as she can. "It is very important to open more schools that integrate people with and without mental retardation, not only in Israel, but also in the whole world. The integration must be natural; students must meet face to face with the disabled so they can communicate and help each other," she said. Michal and her colleagues in their school are a great help in changing a lot of the athletes' attitudes. "I remember once an aggressive athlete came to our school; however, after months of persistence he became friendlier."

Special Olympics Israel is planning to include as many athletes as possible. Although there are only a few schools that integrate in her country, Michal is trying to advertise the Global Youth Summit program in all areas.

"Me and you will change the world, someone has already said it before, but you and me will change the world." That's the theme that Michal and her delegation believe in. As a final comment, Michal said, "It's really important to integrate; it should be more enhanced in the whole world." Every person has a problem of some sort, and we don't treat each other differently. Why would we treat those with mental retardation differently?

TEAM TAIWAN

Peter Chang, 11 & Wei Hsung Chen, 12

他平常在我眼中是個好吃懶做的人，身材胖胖型，一百七十多公分，看起來不怎麼樣，但是他卯起來做事可不是蓋的，他幾乎什麼事都能以最快的速度完成。

我們要來愛爾蘭之前，可是其中大有故事，從愛爾蘭政府不讓SARS疫區的隊伍去的這件事開始，我爸媽就開始24小時待命，有時輪流睡覺，白天忙著聯繫各方，研究如何處理突破困境，晚上等待國際特奧會能傳來好消息。這一次為了台灣因為SARS不能來的事一直在努力，幾個禮拜後，他變的很沒精神，我跟他講話他都恩恩啊啊的不然就是叫我去開。我開始逼他睡覺，等他睡我才睡，到了半夜他又偷偷爬起來....。我對愛爾蘭政府的龜毛感到非常憤慨（因為商人和觀光客都可以去而且不用被隔離）。

那爸爸是用什麼力量在堅持要求愛爾蘭政府同意我們國家的代表團參加呢？他說：「這是全世界每一個特奧運動員和代表團應有的權利，我認為這並不是SARS的問題，因為其他疫區國家的人都可以來，而愛爾蘭政府明明知道，就算禁止我們的代表團來，他們也可以用觀光客的名義到愛爾蘭。」我覺得這樣是一個很不負責任的行為，愛爾蘭政府把責任丟給泰國，他們憑什麼接待我們？他們怕SARS，泰國也怕SARS啊？

由於中華台北代表團在泰國隔離十天，到6月24日才能抵達都柏林，不能參加21日舉行的開幕式。大會為了不讓中華台北成為全世界唯一一個沒有出場的代表團而留下遺憾，就要同樣來自台灣，卻不需隔離的全球青少年高峰會議代表3人代表參加開幕式。在我們匆匆抵達集合地點時，看到滿場的接待志工不斷歡呼鼓勵在等待進場的各國代表團，媽媽很感動的說了一句話：「為什麼特奧運動員要訓練這麼久呢？就是因為他們這兩年來的訓練成果，都是在這幾分鐘的入場時，接受了幾萬名觀眾的掌聲和歡呼鼓勵，真正提昇充實了自己的自信心。」



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THE STORIES

TEAM NAMIBIA

Miss Uganda to Spread the Word of Special Olympics

June 28 — We learned that Dr. Nakuya Rehma is a individual dedicated to her responsibilities, who has learned that serving others enriches one's heart.

The 24-year-old winner of the Miss Uganda beauty pageant for 2002-2003 was asked to help raise money for the Special Olympics World Summer Games this year.

"I felt honored to be part of this movement," she said. Since then she has been actively involved in Special Olympics and was glad that she could come to the World Games in Dublin, Ireland, this week.

Miss Uganda comes from a traditionally large African family of 12 children. She has lost her father but her mother still gives her the love she needs, she said.

"I have learned over the years that every little bit you give, you actually receive back a hundredfold!" she told Scholastic News Online.

Besides representing her country as Miss Uganda, Nakuya is a general health practitioner working at Nsambya Local Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. Kampala is a big and vibrant city with very nice people, Nakuya said. She appreciates the people back home for the respect they give her.

Nakuya says she enjoys going out to movies and playing volleyball. She also likes to hang out with her friends. As Miss Uganda, she has traveled to parts of the world she thought she would never see.

When she returns to Uganda from her trip to Dublin, Ireland, she promises to spread the message of the Special Olympics throughout the world.

"I have experienced the ability of these athletes and the world must stop limiting them by looking at their disabilities," she said.

TEAM PARAGUAY

En Carrera

Mirtha Quinonez tiene 14 años cumple 15 años el 17 de setiembre y nació en el año 1988. su deporte es el atletismo, hace lanzamiento de bala y gana dos medallas, una de oro en una carrera de 100m y otra también de oro en lanzamiento de bala, lanzo a 252m de distancia y dice que estas medallas son para su país.

Esta en el colegio Italo – Paraguay hace 5 años y le gusta ir al colegio porque todo lo que hace es divertido, aparte de ir al colegio ayuda a limpiar la casa, y en sus ratos libres escucha música (cumbia y música romántica), toma terere con sus amigos y ve la tele. Vive con su mamá y con sus hermanos tiene un hermano y una hermana tiene un perro que se llama Colón. Tiene muchos amigos en el barrio y está buscando novio (osea que si alguien lee esta historia ya sabe por sí las dudas).

Lo que más le gusta de Irlanda es la tradición del baile y la naturaleza, le gusta la ceremonia de apertura pero lo que más le gusta fue cuando la delegación de Paraguay hizo su presentación y cuando encendieron la antorcha.

Esta es la primera vez que sale de su país y por eso está muy contenta.

Ella se involucró en Olimpiadas Especiales por medio de una profesora del IMPRO y le gusta estar acá porque se divierte conociendo amigos y también siguen los cursos de ALPs y dice que son muy interesantes porque aparte de ser interesante el programa y aprender cosas nuevas tiene una muy buena profesora que se llama Leonor Díaz de Vivar.

Si tuviera que vestirse para alguna ocasión elegiría ponerse un jeans, una blusa y una sandalia, le gusta el color rojo.

Su cantante favorito es Grupo 1 y su artista favorito es Oscar Acosta.

También como no podían faltar sus amigos en esta entrevista los recordo y nos comento que son Oscar, Carlos, Víctor, Rubén, Hugo, Lizz, Nadia y Fatima.

Su mensaje para el mundo es: "QUE EL MUNDO ACEPTÉ LAS DIFERENCIAS DE LAS PERSONAS Y QUE LAS RESPETE, PORQUE NADIE ES MEJOR QUE DIOS."



SPECIAL OLYMPICS GET INTO IT™

Special Olympics Get Into It™

A service-learning curriculum developed to introduce Special Olympics and explain intellectual disabilities to youth and encourage them to become involved in the movement.

SO Get Into It Goals

The overall goal of SO Get Into It is to increase the participation of children and youth with and without intellectual disabilities in Special Olympics by establishing school-based Special Olympics Programs and activities. This encompasses several related goals:

- To develop new constituencies and leaders for the Special Olympics movement;
- To promote greater understanding and acceptance of similarities and differences in others among school-age youth; and
- To involve school-age youth in a variety of activities centered on Special Olympics, including participation in Special Olympics sports and events that will enable them to play a positive role in their schools and communities.

SO Get Into It is made up of four lesson plans compatible with curriculum standards in the areas of language arts, social studies, history, health and physical education and other areas:

- **Awareness:** Learning how stereotypes are formed and can be hurtful
- **Understanding:** Overcoming unfair treatment, adversity and discrimination
- **Inspiration:** Goal setting with Special Olympics athletes as role models
- **Action:** Encouraging students to make a difference in school and community with Special Olympics

Included with the lessons are videotapes, local contact information and other supplemental resources for the teacher and students.

SO Get Into It is available now in the following languages:

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian.

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Special Olympics
SO Get Into It™
2003 Global Youth Summit

Editors of the Global Youth Summit Proceedings



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Youth Leader



Ena Chang (on right) with friend
Christian from Chile
2001 Global Youth Summit
Participant & 2003 Global Youth
Summit Youth Leader



Zoe Pastorfield-Li (on right) with
friend Luis from Paraguay
2002-2003 Special Olympics
High School Intern
2003 Global Youth Summit
Youth Leader



Special Olympics

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