

# THE STORIES

## ASIA PACIFIC



### TEAM INDIA

**By: Vishnu Prasad, athlete & Chitra Roshini Ronald, partner**

Special Olympics North America is well represented at the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games. We had the chance to speak with three athletes who shared with us their stories and experiences about their involvement with Special Olympics.

#### To Do One's Best

Steve, 29, is an athlete from Special Olympics Canada who is participating in his first World Games. He has been involved in Special Olympics for about 18 years and is competing in the 3K cross country skiing event.

Steve also likes to play basketball, floor hockey and soccer. He loves to participate in the competitions in foreign countries so that he could make new friends from different parts of the world, see new people and meet new athletes. Steve has six older brothers and one younger sister who encourage him in every step of his life.

Steve has received lots of encouragement from the Japanese hosts and had much fun. His goal these Games is to do his best.

#### Do Not Lose Hope

Maria, 21, is from a city in Canada called Lona. She is a veteran of Special Olympics and participates in 3K and 5K cross country skiing. She also lives on a farm and this brings her great happiness.

Maria is also interested in track and field and football (soccer). She feels good about participating in Special Olympics as she always puts a lot of effort into her events, but if she does not win a medal, she always tries her best the next time. She also says Special Olympics gives everyone a chance to succeed.

#### A Love for Teaching

Kellen Brit is a skiing coach from Special Olympics USA. She loves teaching children with intellectual disabilities because of their urge to learn and be involved. Her job is so enjoyable that she doesn't think of it as work.

Brit has loved watching the athletes of Special Olympics compete at these World Winter Games. "They always have the spirit to give it another try," she said. "They don't lose hope and I am amazed."



### A YOUNG CHAMPION

**By: Vishnu Prasad, athlete & Chitra Roshini Ronald, partner**

Jerson Frenandes is the youngest member of the Special Olympics India floor hockey team competing at the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games. Originally from Mumbai, Frenandes is also competing in his first World Winter Games.

Frenandes has been involved with Special Olympics for three years now. His involvement with Special Olympics has helped spur many changes in his life.

"I was not confident before, but now I have found new strength and passion for sports and life," Frenandes said.

Initially, Frenandes was studying in a regular school in Mumbai, but due to the heavy course load associated with the classes he was taking, he could not cope with all of the studying. Students frequently bullied him by calling him names like "loser," among many others. He was beginning to lose hope.

After his parents were able to find a school for individuals with intellectual disabilities, Frenandes received what he claims to be the most exciting news of his life.

Frenandes was to be on the Special Olympics India floor hockey team at the upcoming World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. Both of his parents and his sister was very happy and excited to hear the news of his selection. He is the first member of his immediate and extended family to travel abroad.

As he competes this week, Frenandes is keeping his family close at heart. He sincerely hopes to give something back to his parents in return for what they have done for him all those years by doing his best.

Aside from playing floor hockey, Frenandes' other interests are playing cricket, watching sports and playing with his dog.

While his sights are still set on winning a medal at these World Winter Games, when Frenandes grows up, he hopes to become an airline pilot.

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## **CHANGE ATTITUDES CHANGE THE WORLD**

**By: Kartika Tjan, athlete & Indra Umay, partner  
Team Indonesia**

Yuichiro Miyazaki, 32, was assigned by Kyodo News to cover the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. A graduate of Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, majoring in Sociology, Miyazaki has been working as a journalist for eight years and this was his first time covering a Special Olympics event.

When we asked him about his take on athletes with intellectual disabilities, he said that prior to the event, he did not know much about them.

The Winter Games have definitely left an impression.

Now he thinks that athletes with intellectual disabilities are very good and he has loved seeing them compete in the Games. Whereas he didn't interact with such individuals before, now Miyazaki hopes to learn more from them. "I want to understand them better," he said.

Miyazaki said that in the future he hopes to help people with intellectual disabilities by dedicating his spare time to support Special Olympics activities and other causes that could use his help.



## **SPECIAL OLYMPICS MADE ME GO ABROAD**

**By: Kartika Tjan, athlete & Umay Indra, partner  
Team Indonesia**

Today the Indonesian team interviewed William Ripley, an 18-year-old snowboarding athlete from Special Olympics Team USA, who had just finished his first round and was accompanied by his parents during the interview.

Ripley goes to Franklin High School in Oregon and has been snowboarding for almost three years. He had to win two gold medals in the United States to meet the requirements of the World Games team. For him, this is his first World Winter Games experience.

Ripley has been involved in Special Olympics for over two years. He came to know about Special Olympics through his friend's father who works for Special Olympics. Ripley thinks Special Olympics is cool because it has given him the opportunity to compete and be a good athlete.

"By joining Special Olympics, I am able to go abroad and have the best coach".



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## HEALTHY ATHLETES PROFILE: DR. SITI ADININGRUM ADIWOSO

**By: Kartika (Noni) Tjan, athlete & Umayra Indra, partner  
Team Indonesia**

Yesterday we were invited by Dr. Siti Adiningrum Adiwoso, 55, to spend our evening together and we decided to interview her about her activity and how she was involved with Special Olympics.

Dr. Adiwoso is a 55-year-old dentist who has come all the way from Jakarta to take part as a volunteer in Special Smiles®, part of the Healthy Athletes® screenings at the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games. She is a graduate from the Free University Dental School in Amsterdam, Holland. On behalf of the Healthy Athletes program, she successfully coordinated a training for the Asia Pacific region in her hometown in March of 2004.

Dr. Adiwoso started to be involved in Special Olympics Indonesia when she was invited by Dr. Steve Pearlman (founder of Special Olympics Special Smiles) to join the Train the Trainer Program at the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland, and she has been an active participant in the Special Olympics Indonesia Healthy Athletes program ever since.

Dr. Adiwoso holds several personal dental practices in Jakarta and spends half of her time actively involved in YPAC (Indonesian Disabled Children Center), and for this she received the Kalpataru Award from the Indonesian government.

A pioneer in her field, Dr. Adiwoso is also teaching special dental care to dental students at several universities around Indonesia.

“I have loved helping people with intellectual disabilities since I was in school,” said Dr. Adiwoso. “It gives me great satisfaction. I believe that it is a must for an athlete with an intellectual disability to have a good checkup in hearing, sight, nutrition and dental condition.”

Dr. Adiwoso is doing all that she can to ensure just that.



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS IS THE RIGHT PLACE TO WIN

**By: Kartika Tjan, athlete & Umayra Indra, partner  
Team Indonesia**

“Special Olympics is a way for me to prove that my capability as an athlete has not changed even though my life has totally changed,” said Special Olympics Austria athlete Hartmann Bader. The 52-year-old cross country skiing athlete who has been involved with Special Olympics for 12 years is making his first appearance at the Special Olympics World Winter Games here in Nagano, Japan.

Bader sustained a brain injury at the age of 20 in a paragliding accident and lost his ability to function normally. He was forced to cancel a wedding that was a month away and he kept pondering how he could once again get involved in something he had loved since childhood: sports.

After overcoming the emotional stress he had been through, Bader joined Special Olympics and hasn't looked back.

Special Olympics allowed Bader to gauge many of his abilities, one of which was cross country skiing. While he has won a number of medals in local competitions, he looks forward to the opportunity of winning a medal here in Nagano.

Throughout the course of the week, Bader has made a good number of friends and experiences that will forever be with him.

“Special Olympics is a perfect place for me,” he said.