

Massachusetts

MEDIA

GUIDE



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

NATIONAL
GAMES

2010



SOMA would like to give a special thanks to Reebok® for generously donating all of our team apparel for National Games!

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Robert A. Johnson

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Dear Athletes, Families and Supporters;

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I welcome you to read about National Games and the outstanding athletes from Massachusetts who will be participating in this extraordinary event.

The City of Lincoln, Nebraska has been preparing for this event for nearly three years. The people of Nebraska are eagerly awaiting the arrival of more than 3,500 athletes and 1,000 coaches from throughout the United States. They expect to see as many as 30,000 spectators for this event and benefit from the services of more than 8,000 volunteers. The venue; the University of Nebraska, is one of the premier college sports venues in the country. The stage has been set. Every detail has been attended to. What may be the biggest and best Special Olympics sports event ever staged just for athletes from the United States is about to take place.

I know that SOMA athletes have been working hard to prepare for this event. They now have to participate with PURPOSE, PASSION AND PRIDE. Their PURPOSE, to show the world just how good a Special Olympics athlete can be; to prove to the world that they CAN learn, follow the rules of sport and accomplish great things if simply given the opportunity. Their PASSION, represented through the determination to take all that they have learned through their intense training and their absolute best efforts. Finally, they will return home with PRIDE, knowing that they achieved their goals and brought honor to themselves, their families and their state.

I am confident in the abilities of all of our athletes and I know that they are going to represent Special Olympics Massachusetts with distinction and sportsmanship. Massachusetts is cheering on all of its athletes and will be eagerly awaiting their triumphant return.

Good luck athletes!!! Play by the rules. Do your very best. And, by all means, HAVE FUN!!

Sincerely,

Robert A. Johnson
President & CEO



The Yawkey Sports Training Center, 512 Forest Street, Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752-3054

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Aquatics



DENISE CARRIERE

Hometown: Andover

Local Program: Andover

Fun Fact: Denise is quite the hero. She is a SOMA Global Messenger and has given many speeches throughout Massachusetts. Denise has earned 103 gold medals from the Special Olympics, mostly in swimming events!



ANN MARIE DAWES

(Coach)

Hometown: Douglas

Local Program: Seven Hills

Fun Fact: Ann Marie says that, "volunteering reminds [her] of how things are outside of [her] own experience, and helps [her] to see how things could be."



STEVEN DRYSDALE

Hometown: Milton

Local Program: Stoughton

Fun Fact: This is Steven's first time at National Games!

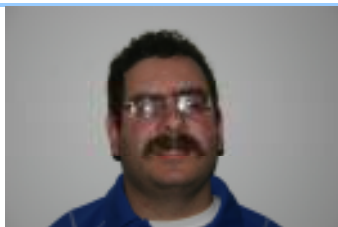


JOSEPH ELCEWICZ

Hometown: Wakefield

Local Program: New England Aquatics

Fun Fact: Joseph will represent SOMA at the National Games for the first time this year.



WILLIAM HOLBROOK

Hometown: Everett

Local Program: New England Aquatics

Fun Fact: William received his childhood nickname, "Water Baby," when he began taking swimming lessons at just 6 months! He is a part-time employee at the Malden YMCA.



JIM JELLISON

(Coach)

Hometown: Salem

Local Program: Friends of Special Olympics

Fun Fact: Jim's favorite food is pizza and his favorite TV show is "Fringe." In his free time, Jim enjoys riding motorcycles, bicycles, and kayaking.



ELIZABETH MCCOURT

Hometown: Boxford

Local Program: New England Aquatics

Fun Fact: At the 2009 Winter World Games Elizabeth finished 6th in the ladies single division for figure skating. Elizabeth attends the Riverview School and is a member of the Bourne Skating Club.



WYNNE MORROW

Hometown: Belmont

Local Program: Belmont Sport

Fun Fact: Wynne raced with dolphins while she was in Bermuda...and she WON!



BRENDAN O'KEEFE

Hometown: Wakefield

Local Program: New England Aquatics

Fun Fact: Brendan has participated with SOMA for over 10 years and has played basketball, golf, and soccer.



JEANNE PARENT

Hometown: Wayland

Local Program: Wellesley Stars

Fun Fact: Jeanne participated in the 2007 World Special Olympics in Shanghai where she won the first gold medal for Team USA. She is participating in 4 swimming events at this year's National Games.

"Let me win, but if I can not win, let me be brave in the attempt" – Special Olympics Oath

Athletics



JOHN CAPPIELLO

(Coach)

Hometown: Tewksbury

Fun Fact: John is a SOMA Staff Member in the technology department.



CHRISTOPHER CHAREST

Hometown: Worcester

Local Program: South High School

Fun Fact: Chris has been participating in Special Olympics for over 10 years.



DAVID LOPEZ

Hometown: Worcester

Local Program: South High School

Fun Fact: David is a hard-core fan of the New York Yankees. He always wears his Yankees hat proudly, even though all of his teammates are Red Sox fans, and they tease him about it.



SANDRA MENARD

Hometown: West Boylston

Local Program: South High School

Fun Fact: Sandra's favorite meal is twin lobsters at Barber's Crossing in Sterling, MA. She is full of love and is always ready to have a good time. Sandra works at Stop and Shop and her previous boss allowed her to wear her Special Olympics medals to work!



LAURENE RICE

Hometown: Worcester

Local Program: South High School

Fun Fact: Laurene has a pacman frog named Daisy who she cares for like a mother would a child.



KEITH ROBERT

Hometown: Holyoke

Local Program: Greater Springfield

Fun Fact: Keith recently participated in his 25th Special Olympics Massachusetts' Summer Games! He also went to the games in Iowa for soccer.



DEB TYBOROWSKI

(Coach)

Hometown: Worcester

Local Program: South High School

Fun Fact: Debbie was a coach at the previous National Games in 2006.



JOSEPH VASCONCELOS

Hometown: Milford

Local Program: Milford

Fun Fact: Joe had the honor of reciting the athlete's oath at the 2010 Summer Games. He is also a Global Messenger for SOMA.



JENNIFER WALSH

(Coach)

Hometown: Milford

Local Program: Milford

Fun Fact: Jennifer is currently in school for her Masters Degree in Moderate Disabilities, grades 5-12.



ALISON WRIGHT

Hometown: Chicopee

Local Program: Greater Springfield

Fun Fact: Alison has been participating in Special Olympics for over 10 years. She attended her first National Games in Iowa 4 years ago.

"It's not just a game...it's my life." - Anonymous
Special Olympics Athlete

Basketball



MATT CRONIN

(Unified Partner)

Hometown: Forestdale

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Matt was the 'mop boy' for the Villanova University men's basketball team in 1993-1994.



KERRI GILROY

Hometown: Hyannis

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Kerri also enjoys playing soccer with her Life teammates.

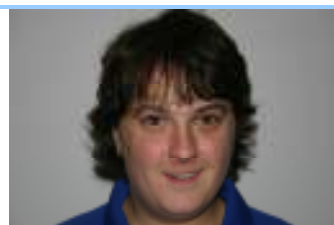


MATTHEW KLOMPUS

Hometown: Mashpee

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Matt loves all sports and roots for all of the teams representing his home town, Miami. He enjoys cooking and entertaining his family and friends. For a good time...Call Matt!!!



CAROLINE KOKKINS

Hometown: Marion

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Aside from basketball, Caroline also enjoys playing tennis in her free time.



TREY MARABELLA

Hometown: Hyannis

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: One of Trey's favorite SOMA memories is when he played basketball on the court during a Boston Celtics' halftime.



AMANDA MCKELVEY

Hometown: Hingham

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Amanda loves to cook, so she is always watching the FOOD Network for inspiration and good ideas.



MAUREEN MCNAMARA

(Coach)

Hometown: Sandwich

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Maureen is the proud owner of two Irish cats named Shamus and Liam. She coached track and field at the first the first National Games in Iowa.



IAN SAARMAN

(Unified Partner)

Hometown: Mashpee

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Ian also plays as a unified partner for the Life Survivors' Soccer team.



MIKE SHAPIRO

Hometown: Hyannis

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Mike has participated in all four of the SOMA state-level tournaments.



CHRISTOPHER STURZ

Hometown: Hyannis

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Chris is an avid sports fan. He loves football, baseball and basketball, but hockey is his favorite!



NANCY WALSH

(Coach)

Hometown: Hyannis

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Nancy has a Golden Retriever named Emma.



CORINNE WICKEL

(Unified Partner)

Hometown: Mashpee

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Corinne is a fairly new member of the Life Team and is really looking forward to attending this years' National Games.

Bocce

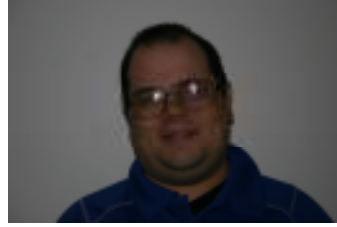


RICHARD BASHAW

Hometown: Chicopee

Local Program: Greater Springfield

Fun Fact: Richard also competes in track and field.



MATTHEW CARPENTIER

Hometown: Ludlow

Local Program: Greater Springfield

Fun Fact: Matt also participates in bowling at the SOMA Winter Games.



MIKE DIGGINS

(Coach)

Hometown: Shrewsbury

Local Program: Shrewsbury Special Needs

Fun Fact: Mike has taken the Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics for several years.



CHRISTOPHER DREWNIAK

Hometown: Ludlow

Local Program: Greater Springfield

Fun Fact: Chris also participates in volleyball, soccer, and basketball.



REX YOUNG

Hometown: Springfield

Local Program: Greater Springfield

Fun Fact: Rex has marched in the Macy's Day Parade on Thanksgiving! He loves balloons and Popeye!

"If you think you can or you think you can't, either way, you'll be right."

– Henry Ford

Bowling



MICHELE ADLER

Hometown: Lenox

Local Program: Berkshires

Fun Fact: Michelle is a SOMA Global Messenger and has been the MC for several events.



PAULA CHACE

Hometown: Swansea

Local Program: Swansea

Fun Fact: Paula has been a SOMA athlete for well over 10 years.



COURTNEY COWAN

Hometown: Canaan, NY

Local Program: Berkshires

Fun Fact: Courtney also enjoys playing golf and tennis.



KATIE MEUNIER

Hometown: Springfield

Local Program: Greater Springfield

Fun Fact: Katie also attended the 2006 National Games.



PAT WHITE

(Coach)

Hometown: Great Barrington

Local Program: Berkshires

Fun Fact: Pat has been a coach for Special Olympics since 1989 and in 2008 she was inducted into the SOMA Hall of Fame for her outstanding work and commitment!

"Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is."

– Vince Lombardi

Golf



SCOTT AYRES

(Coach)

Hometown: Shrewsbury

Local Program: Shrewsbury Special Needs

Fun Fact: Scott is also a unified partner for level 2 golf.



JEFFREY BRAMLEY

Hometown: Westborough

Local Program: Greater Marlboro Programs Inc.

Fun Fact: Jeffrey walks to and from the Westborough Country Club almost every day to play golf!



JIM CIOCILO

(Unified Partner)

Hometown: Holden

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: When Jim is not golfing he enjoys fly fishing. In the winter, Jim likes skiing.



MIKE CIOCILO

Hometown: Holden

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Mike likes to brag about how he "goes over" the water when he hits his golf shots at his home course. He also loves skiing and French fries!



GEORGE KENT

(Unified Partner)

Hometown: Hopkinton

Local Program: Greater Marlboro Programs Inc.

Fun Fact: Along with being a unified partner, George is also a SOMA staff member.



TYLER LAGASSE

Hometown: Tyngsboro

Local Program: Lowell KIDS

Fun Fact: Tyler will be featured in a story on the Golf Channel on the TV Show "Golf In America."



SCOTT MERRILL

Hometown: Minot

Local Program: Scituate

Fun Fact: Scott loves watching sports on TV,
especially the Boston Red Sox.

"You are the stars and the world is watching you. By your presence you send a message to every village, every city, every nation. A message of hope. A message of victory." –Eunice Kennedy Shriver at the 1987 Special Olympics World Games in South Bend, Indiana

Powerlifting



BRUCE HELLER

(Coach)

Hometown: Scituate

Local Program: Scituate

Fun Fact: Bruce is a personal trainer.



MATTHEW KARDOK

Hometown: Hingham

Local Program: Scituate

Fun Fact: Matthew has raised \$43,000 for SOMA by participating in The Passion Plunge at Nantasket Beach in Hull, MA for the past few years.



TOM MCCARTER

Hometown: Somerville

Local Program: Belmont Sport

Fun Fact: Tom is an avid fan of Boston College Men's Hockey and was in attendance at the 2010 Frozen Four with his brother-in-law, Michael, when BC won its 4th National Championship.

"Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play."

– Mike Singletary

Tennis



LUCY DICKMAN

(Coach)

Hometown: Pembroke

Local Program: Scituate Lob Stars

Fun Fact: Lucy believes that her students teach her more in a week about compassion than she could learn in a year.



LIZ FOSSUM

Hometown: Northborough

Local Program: Handi-Racket

Fun Fact: Liz's one-year-old Australian Shepherd dog eats pistachios.

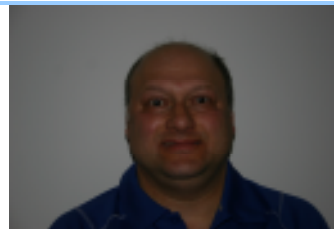


WILLIAM HARRIS

Hometown: Duxbury

Local Program: Scituate

Fun Fact: When William was 12-years-old, he used to watch his sister take tennis lessons and then go home and practice in the mirror for hours! He also swears duct tape fixes everything, even on his rackets!



MARC SEGERMAN

Hometown: Hyannis

Local Program: Life Survivors

Fun Fact: Marc was the MC for the SOMA Hall of Fame Gala in 2008.



DAN WIDRICH

Hometown: Newton

Local Program: Handi-Racket

Fun Fact: When Dan travels, he collects decks of playing cards from all over the world, currently including over 60 different categories. At this time, Dan has over 2500 decks of playing cards that he stores in labeled plastic containers. He is trying to get into The Guinness Book of World Records.

"Limitations only go so far." – Robert M. Hensel

Soccer



JEFFREY COLE

Hometown: Northborough

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Jeff also loves to golf with his brother, Steve. He participates each year in our state tournament.



COLIN DAVIDSON

Hometown: Northborough

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Colin and his family were recently inducted into the SOMA Hall of Fame.



RYAN DIXON

Hometown: Shrewsbury

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Ryan attended the 2006 National Games for bocce.



STEPHEN DIXON

(Coach)

Hometown: Shrewsbury

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Steve used to play as a unified partner for softball.



BOB DOCIMO

(Coach)

Hometown: Shrewsbury

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Bob participated in the 2010 Passion Plunge to raise money for his team to attend National Games.



JASON DORE

Hometown: Holden

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Jason has also participated in volleyball, bocce, softball, and aquatics.



GREGGORY GALLANT

Hometown: Shrewsbury

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Greg is also a phenomenal skier and competes in the SOMA Winter Games.



MATTHEW MILLETT

Hometown: Spencer

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Matt is an all around sports guy; he plays volleyball, hikes mountains, and plunges into the ocean in the middle of winter! This past July, Matt represented Special Olympics and the United States of America at the Unity Cup in South Africa.



BRIAN MILLS

Hometown: Northborough

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Brian also enjoys playing basketball with his teammates from Shrewsbury.



MARC RUSSELL

Hometown: Shrewsbury

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Marc attended the 2006 National Games in Iowa.

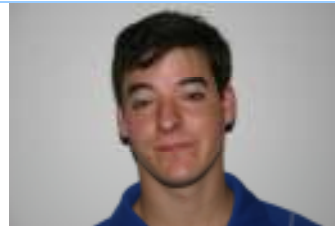


JOSEPH WALSH

Hometown: Webster

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Joe has been participating with SOMA for more than ten years.



MICHAEL WILSON

Hometown: Shrewsbury

Local Program: Shrewsbury

Fun Fact: Michael is initially from South Africa!

Additional Staff



TERRY KEILTY

(Head of Delegation)

Hometown: Georgetown

Fun Fact: Terry was on the first-ever Unified softball team in Massachusetts.

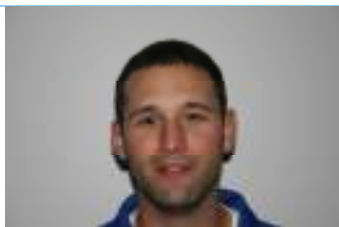


JEN MAITLAND

(AS Coach)

Hometown: Brighton

Fun Fact: Jen will be running in the 2010 Chicago Marathon.



MATT RUXTON

(Assistant Head of Delegation)

Hometown: Medford

Fun Fact: Matt raised over \$5,000 for the 2010 National Games Team.



KATHY SAVAGE

(Medical Staff)

Hometown: Revere

Fun Fact: Kathy has been helping out with Special Olympics for over 25 years. She really enjoys spending time with the athletes and watching them compete and excel!

"People are pretty much alike. It's only that our differences are more susceptible to definition than our similarities."

– Linda Ellerbee

