

If this e-mail does not display properly, please visit
http://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/team_usa/2007/0607p1.html



Special Olympics

TEAM USA

Official Newsletter of Special Olympics Team USA

Team USA Newsletter

Page 1 • [2](#) • [3](#)

July 2007

Only Six Days 'Till Team USA converges for Training Camp

Sports Training, Jo Dee Messina & Baseball...the Perfect Mix for the event

Following a nationwide conference call with all states on the upcoming Team USA Training Camp, athletes and coaches have much to look forward to as the event, set for July 12-16 in Nashville, Tennessee, has plans fully underway.

Not only is Nashville's Vanderbilt University prepping for the arrival of more than 500 athletes and coaches, but coaches are already preparing their training regiments as for some, this will be the first time they meet their athletes for each of the sports.

Plans are in the works for a little fun on the side. The athletes will spend one evening at the Triple AAA league Nashville Sounds Baseball Game for a "Special Olympics Night," hosting a variety of small events throughout the game. The Team USA delegation will also take in some Chinese culture and can look forward to a fashion show, featuring athlete models showing off the competition and casual wear the delegation will be seen wearing in China during the Games.

An exciting addition is the performance from Team USA spokesperson and Country singer JoDee Messina who will make several appearances throughout the training camp to show her support of Team USA. Olympic speedskater Scott Hamilton will also make guest appearances showing his support. Last but not least, you can't have a Special Olympics event with out a final victory dance as athletes relieve their stress on the dance floor!

Teachers Group Sends off Team USA in Style...

Special Olympics Team USA today announced a \$50,000 partnership with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), to be a Presenting Sponsor of the Team USA Sendoff Celebration.

"We are so proud to support the athletes of Team USA, who are such admirable representatives of the United States," said AFT Executive Vice President Antonia Cortese. "And we wish them all the very best of luck!"

Ms. Cortese said last year she attended the first USA National Games,



Get daily updates on photos and stories from Team USA Training Camp by

visiting the [Team USA Web site!](#)



[Click here to download a printable PDF of this newsletter.](#)

Team USA Sponsors

Bank of America

Columbia
Sportswear Company.

FedEx

mtm
midwest trophy

and even participated as the Grand Marshal of the NY delegation.

"We are thrilled that AFT has agreed to support Team USA for our 2007 Celebration Sendoff for China." Mark Musso, management team director of Team USA and president of Special Olympics Missouri. He added that AFT and its affiliates have a long history of supporting Special Olympics including the National Games in Ames, Iowa and the on-going 'SO-Get Into It' curriculum. "We are proud to continue our work with AFT and honored to be associated with such a respected organization."



A Union of Professionals



A Union of Professionals

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) was founded in 1916 to represent the economic, social and professional interests of classroom teachers. It is an affiliated international union of the AFL-CIO. The AFT has more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide, 43 state affiliates, and more than 1.4 million members. For more information, visit www.aft.org.

[Next Page >>](#)



Let Me Win.
But if I cannot win,
let me be brave
in the attempt.

Athlete Oath



Special Olympics

TEAM USA

Official Newsletter of Special Olympics Team USA

Team USA Newsletter

Page [1](#) • [2](#) • [3](#)

July 2007

Rhily Simpkin, Athletics Athlete - In Her Own Words



Editor's Note: Rhily Simpkin will be interviewing Team USA athletes for athlete features in upcoming e-newsletters along with writing about her time in China during the 2007 World Summer Games.

Hi! My name is Rhily Simpkin from Pleasant Hill, Illinois. I have been in Special Olympics for 9 years. I have been doing track and recently basketball, and soon I may be doing some other sports too.

I am a sophomore in high school. I like going to school because I have fun and bonus lists. I have many friends there. I am on the honor roll inside and outside school.

At home, I have 2 brothers and my mom and dad. As for pets, I have 4 dogs and 3 cats. When I'm at home I help my mother with the things that need to be done. When I want to settle down for the night, I may read a book or do a puzzle. I sometimes play basketball or sit with my dogs.

My past trip to China was really fun for me, but I was also a little nervous. Some other athletes and I went from Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, to Chicago where we stayed the night. The next day, we flew to San Francisco and stayed the night there too. Then the whole Team USA flew to China. The trip to China was a long 11 hours.

When we got to China, that night we went to a greeting place so we could rest a little plus wait for the buses to come. Once we were on the bus, we went to a nice welcoming ceremony for us. After we were done, we went to our hotel. We stayed there for a week to sight-see the city of Caoyang. The next week is when we got to another hotel and did all of the running events that Team USA had to do.

My expectations for the upcoming games are to just have fun and try my best. I also want to try and see everything I can so I can always remember that I was in another country. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for someone like me.

Bocce Partner Appreciates Bank of



Get daily updates on photos and stories from Team USA Training Camp by

visiting the [Team USA Web site!](#)



[Click here to download a printable PDF of this newsletter.](#)

Team USA Sponsors



America Support

Bocce Partner Bob Stephens of Missouri figures he has banked with Bank of America and its predecessors for about 20 years. Though the names of his banks have changed through buyouts, one thing remains the same – good customer service.

Stephens has had two mortgages through Bank of America and while he was employed at Hertz Equipment Rental he frequently took the daily receipts to the local branch for deposit.

Through his frequent visits to the bank, he struck up a friendship with a teller named Holly who always asks about his son, Larry, who has competed in Special Olympics since he was 8.

So, when Stephens found out that Bank of America donated \$500,000 to support Team USA for the China games, he made a point of thanking all the banking personnel from the branches he visits.

"The tellers there were amazed. They didn't know about the donation," Stephens said. "They were all excited and talking to my wife and I about how great it is that I'm going to China. I said 'Look at all your bank's doing to support Special Olympics.'"

Stephens was named Special Olympics Missouri's Central Area Volunteer of the Year in 2006, his family was named Family of the Year in 2000 and his daughter also has received the Volunteer of the Year award.

After supporting Bank of America through nearly 20 years of business, Stephens is proud to be a part of Team USA that is receiving back from the bank.



Bocce Partner Bob Stephens stands proudly outside of the Bank of America facilities in his area of Columbia, Mo.



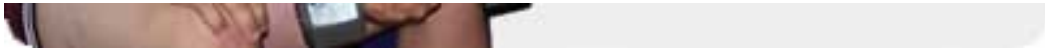
A Union of Professionals

[<< Last Page](#) | [Next Page >>](#)



Let Me Win.
But if I cannot win,
let me be brave
in the attempt.

Athlete Oath





Special Olympics

TEAM USA

Official Newsletter of Special Olympics Team USA

Team USA Newsletter

Page [1](#) • [2](#) • [3](#)

July 2007

Sutton finds sport lifts more than just weights

Chaka Sutton, head powerlifting coach for Team USA, has been lifting weights for more than 20 years, starting in high school. In addition, he has served as speed and conditioning coach for high school and college football players, including several future NFL players.

However, nothing lifts his spirits like working with Special Olympics athletes. "Special Olympics athletes – their eyes are wide open," he said. "When I see an athlete lift five pounds more than they did the last time or see someone come from Point A to Point B and advance on to Point C, it's great."

Sutton has been involved with Special Olympics for about 18 years in Mississippi, Tennessee and Colorado, where he is Area Director of the Foothills Area. He served as the head golf coach from Colorado in 1999, assistant snowshoeing coach in Japan in 2005 and Colorado's head of delegation for the National Games in 2006. He also is involved in Colorado's golf and tennis programs.

He is looking forward to seeing his powerlifters "compete to their highest capabilities and have fun. We (Sutton and his six assistant coaches) will have more concrete goals and expectations of them after we go through the Training Camp (in July)."

Since he is a lifter himself, Sutton believes that helps with his interaction with the athletes. "I explain to them that I do lift and I'll show them the lift and they will see that here's a guy who's just not talking, he knows what he's doing,"

In fact, Sutton was a Unified Partner with athlete Erin Holloway for four years. "I still work with some of the same athletes that I started with 11 years ago. I have seen them all grow physically, socially and emotionally," he said.

"They give back to me that 'Thank You,' " he said. "They will always



Head Coach for powerlifting Chaka Sutton put on a leprechaun outfit in preparation for the 2003 World Games in Ireland.



Get daily updates on photos and stories from Team USA Training Camp by

visiting the [Team USA Web site!](#)



[Click here to download a printable PDF of this newsletter.](#)

Team USA Sponsors

Bank of America

Columbia
Sportswear Company.

FedEx

mtm
midwest trophy

show you the gratitude that you may or may not deserve. But they show you the gratitude for taking the time and working with them."

Joe Conway dives into swimming whole-heartedly

Joseph Conway of Minnesota is ready to dive into the World Games aquatics experience, just as he has jumped headfirst into Special Olympics.

Joe, 17, has been involved with Special Olympics for seven years, competing in basketball, floor hockey, softball and athletics. However, aquatics is far and away his favorite sport and freestyle and butterfly are his favorite strokes.

Joe is one of five children, including his twin John, adopted by Sandy and John Conway.

In fact, swimming is a family affair for the Conways, who run a summer Special Olympics aquatics program in their backyard pool. With Team USA assistant aquatics coach Keanne Cameron, the Conways have offered a program for two age groups of swimmers for seven years.

When he's not helping out at the family pool, Joe's summer is full working as a lifeguard at three different pools in and around Minneapolis/St. Paul. Joe admits the test to become a certified lifeguard was tough, but something he was committed to accomplishing.

And, it's a job he takes very seriously. "I watch the kids, make sure they follow the rules and have to be strict – their lives are in your hands," he said. He said he never has had to save a swimmer's life, but has had to help many of them down out of the slides.

Joe is an accomplished diver who began club swimming at age 8 and competes on his high school's adapted swimming team. He does 11 dives, with the hardest being 2 1/2 somersaults. In fact, he has competed at All-Conference two years in a row, finishing 26th out of 34 this year.

Joe is excited to represent Team USA at the World Games in China, competing in the 200-meter individual medley, 100-meter butterfly and 100-meter individual medley.



Joe Conway is shown in his backyard on the diving board receiving his award from his family's Special Olympics backyard swimming program.



A Union of Professionals

