

# Triumph



Special Olympics New York • OCTOBER 2002

## Team New York Selected for Ireland

*Thirty-three athletes and coaches will take part in the 2003 World Games in Dublin.*

**T**wenty-seven athletes and six coaches from New York state have been selected to participate in the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland.

"I'm very excited," said Paul Asaro, 24, a cyclist from Eastchester. "I am the only one from Westchester County who is actually going. It will be my first time off the United States land."

Asaro will join 7,000 athletes from 160 countries who will gather next June in Ireland for two weeks of celebration and competition, making the Games the largest multisport event in the world next year and the largest sporting event ever hosted in Ireland.

"On behalf of Special Olympics New York, I want to congratulate each athlete who will compete in Ireland next year," said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. "It will be a proud moment for all of us when each of these fine athletes, who have all earned a chance to represent their town, county, state and country, parade in to

Opening Ceremonies with the letters U.S.A. across their backs. They will be fulfilling a dream shared by all American athletes."

The Games will take place June 21 to 29. Athletes will arrive by the 16<sup>th</sup> to take part in the Host Town Programme, where athletes and coaches will stay with host families to rest, practice and participate in a cultural exchange with the people of Ireland.

In addition to 7,000 athletes, the World Summer Games will include 3,000 coaches and officials, and

28,000 family members. It marks the first time in the 34-year history of Special Olympics that the World Summer Games is being held outside of the United States.

Nancy Hogan, who's coached Special Olympics for 17 years, will attend the Games as a Track & Field coach.

"I was excited when I first heard that I had been selected, and I'm even more excited now. I want to go tomorrow," Hogan said. "I'm even more excited

for the athletes. For many of them, this is the first time they've been this far away



**I'm very excited. It will be my first time off the United States land.**

**- Athlete Paul Asaro**

## 2003

### WORLD GAMES-IRELAND

#### Team New York

#### HALF MARATHON:

Sean O'Rourke Area 31

#### AQUATICS:

Kathleen Rogan Area 10

#### GOLF:

Megan Clair Area 12

MaryAnne Silverstrim Area 32

#### ROLLER SKATING (ARTISTIC):

Jennifer Yost Area 24

Kristine Fuller Area 24

Pamela Robbins Area 24

#### BOCCE:

Paul Amoroso Area 12

Troy Riegler Area 12

Tim Roland Area 12

Craig Mumford Area 12

#### POWERLIFTING:

Wendy Hawkins Area 7

Indiria Upshaw Area 9

Jodi Rosen Area 34

Kim Richards Area 14

#### ATHLETICS:

John Woodward Area 37

Peter Graham Area 37

Matthew Barnum Area 31

Christian Russo Area 35

#### CYCLING:

Paul Asaro Area 3

Thomas Romeo Area 14

Keith Robbins Area 17

Ed Taylor Area 12

#### EQUESTRIAN:

David Hill Area 33

Stephen Rodrick Area 19

Scott Tongue Area 2

Christopher Donohue Area 31

#### COACHES:

Nancy Hogan, *Athletics* Area 4

Bernadette Donohue, *Bocce* Area 12

Mary Ceci, *Roller Skating* Area 24

Larry Kolwaite, *Cycling* Area 12

Sue Epstein, *Equestrian* Area 19

Bob Goold, *Powerlifting* Area 24

Jennifer Whipple, Head of Delegation, SONY

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Find up-to-date information on our official Web site, [www.specialolympicsnewyork.org](http://www.specialolympicsnewyork.org).

# A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson is President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



On Dec. 4, Special Olympics programs in the United States will participate in a unique fundraising initiative through CIBC World Markets/CIBC Oppenheimer.

USA Miracle Day is a program coordinated by CIBC World

Markets, which is the investment banking and brokerage division of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Miracle Day is a one-day event that raises money for a variety of charities benefiting children throughout the world. On that day, the sales force of CIBC – both institutional and retail account executives – will donate their commissions to charities.

For example, CIBC clients can tell their brokers to forward all commissions on a particular transaction to the charity of the client's choice. For the first year, Special Olympics New York will be one of the approved charities. For those of you who do not have an existing brokerage account at CIBC, you may contact a CIBC branch on or before Nov. 1 to open one. Then, if you make a transaction or transactions on Dec. 4, you will be able to direct the brokers commissions to our organization.



Since 1984, Miracle Day has raised more than \$60 million for children's charities all over the world. In 2001 alone, Miracle Day raised \$12 million in the U. S.

The purpose of Miracle Day is to raise the quality of life for all children. Special Olympics, as you know, strives to achieve this every day through sports training and competition. Miracle Day can also help us raise awareness, prepare our athletes for future success, attract sponsors and volunteers, and encourage parents and teachers to steer their children and students with mental retardation towards Special Olympics.

The potential for a program such as Miracle Day is enormous for Special Olympics New York – not only this year but for many years to come.

For more than three decades in New York, we've seen miracles happen on the playing field and in the lives of our athletes. Miracle Day is just another opportunity for all of us to make sure these miracles continue to happen.

For step-by-step instructions on this innovative program, please visit [specialolympicsnewyork.org](http://specialolympicsnewyork.org).

# 2002 Calendar of Events

## October

- 19 Bowl-A-Thon, Manhattan
- 19 Section 2 Adult Bowling, (Age 22+), Bowling Time Lanes, New Windsor
- 19 Section 3 Adult Bowling, (Age 22+), Pine Lanes, South Glens Falls
- 19 Section 4 Bowling, (Age 22+), Lakeview Lanes, Fulton
- 23 The Real Estate & Construction Gala, New York Sheraton, Manhattan
- 27 Section 1 Adult Bowling, (Age 22+), Maple Lanes, Brooklyn

## November

- 2 & 3 Bowling West, (Age 22+), AMF Olympic Lanes, Rochester
- 8-10 Bowling Central, (Age 22+), AMF Pin-O-Rama, Utica
- 9 Bowling East, (Age 22+), Melville Lanes
- 23 & 24 Fall Leadership Conference & Awards Banquet, Sheraton Hotel, Saratoga Springs

**Also scheduled during November, with dates to be confirmed:**

- Area Coordinators' Council meeting \*
- Training schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year \*

\* For more details, please contact your Director of Field Services or the Special Olympics New York office.

## Triumph

Vol. 6, No. 10 October 2002

Triumph is published 12 times a year by the Public Relations Department for the athletes, volunteers, employees, Board members, Area programs, sponsors and donors of Special Olympics New York, Inc.

### Inspire Greatness

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## Winged Foot Welcomes Masters and British Open Champ

*Sandy Lyle conducts clinic, greets athletes at annual Golf Classic.*

It was one day after Europe's Ryder Cup victory over the Americans and, one by one, the players at Winged Foot Golf Club congratulated Sandy Lyle for the victory.

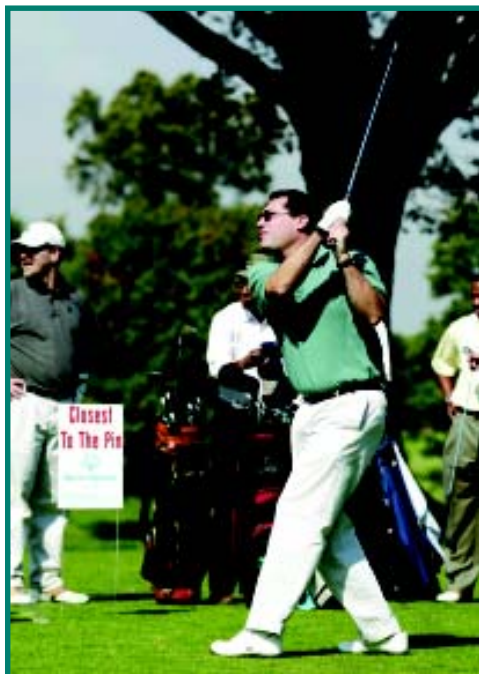
It had been 15 years since Lyle had played a Ryder Cup match, but it didn't matter to the guests. It also didn't matter that Lyle had watched the final pairings from a hotel bar in San Antonio, "surrounded by 20 Americans," as he put it. The Americans were happy for him, and they wanted him to know it.

"I'm glad the Europeans won," said a golfer, one of 175 who took part in the Twelfth Annual Golf Classic to benefit Special Olympics New York. "They seem to appreciate it much more." Lyle, the tactful Scotsman smiled without agreeing or disagreeing.

Lyle, who played on five consecutive Ryder Cup teams, did a lot of smiling that day, as he posed with every foursome, signed autographs, gave tips and hit an occasional 300-yard tee shot to demonstrate the difference between a tour player and the rest of us. He conducted a morning



*Sandy Lyle helps Craig Ludin line up a putt at Lyle's Winged Foot clinic.*



*Players tried to ace the par-3 for a chance to win a Lexus sports car. It went unclaimed.*

clinic, demonstrating difficult sand saves and putts.

Lyle had not had much experience with Special Olympics before being invited to the Golf Classic by Toyota, which sponsored the event along with Time, Inc. Yet, Lyle, who is a spokesman for Natural Golf, said he was impressed with the way the athletes play and the way they are coached.

"It's great to see them playing the game of golf, or even attempting to play," said Lyle, who credits Natural Golf for his improvement in his play over the past 18 months. "The athletes are very quick to pick things up, which is important for people to understand. It's not necessary to make golf more complicated than it already is."

Lyle, 44, still enjoys a very successful career as a course architect, author and player, spending much of his time on the European tour. He is the author of "Championship Courses of Scotland" and "Learning



*Peter Pellegrino, left, presented a gift to sponsor Toshiaki "Tag" Taguchi, president and chief executive officer of Toyota North America.*

Golf: The Lyle Way." In all, Lyle has won 29 tournaments worldwide in his 25-year career. One of his most memorable was the 1988 Masters, where he dueled Mark Calcavecchia down the stretch. Down by a shot at the 16th hole in the final round, Sandy birdied the hole and went on to hit a spectacular second shot from the bunker on the par-4 18th. He sunk the 10-foot birdie putt to win the green jacket. ■

# Special Olympics New York Says Goodbye to Saugerties During Exciting Fall Games Festivities

*After two years in the Catskills, Games will move west in 2003-2004.*

It may have been the last year of Saugerties two-year stint hosting the Fall Games, but the athletes of Special Olympics New York celebrated as if it was a “homecoming”... which was the theme of this year’s Games Oct. 4 to 6.

Although the Opening Ceremonies had to be moved into the auditorium of Saugerties High School because of the rain,

first season competing with the Ulster program after moving from Manhattan. As a Global Messenger, he represented his new program by leading his fellow athletes in the Athletes’ Oath. He was joined by Female Athlete of the Year, Alicia Zeitz.

However, Coombs’ new Softball team lost during their Gold medal defense to the AlleCatts from Allegany/Cattaraugus.

“That’s OK,” Coombs said. “I’m just glad I still have a chance to compete in a program like this.”



Matt Odendahl

*Athletes competed in six sports, including Softball.*

the air inside was charged with the energy of nearly 1,000 athletes and coaches. They stood and cheered as an athlete and coach representing each program carried their banner down the aisle, accompanied by a Healthy Athletes health care professional.

Adding to the excitement was the Emerald Society Pipe and Drum Band, as well as dancing and gymnastics performances by Excel Gymnastics. Everyone’s favorite emcee, Yolanda Vega, from the New York Lottery, whipped the audience into a frenzy.

“It was very exciting watching it from the stage,” said Ulster County athlete Rupert Coombs who is in his

Van Winkle and Thunderhart golf courses.

“It is very rewarding to see an event like this come together. From the first day we arrived in Saugerties the community got



SONY Staff

*Area 12 cyclist Kyle Utter makes his way through the course.*



Matt Odendahl

*Sabrina Bach and Steve Mower ignite the Cauldron to start the Games.*

behind us,” said Director of Competition Peter Lawrence. “Our Special Olympics athletes could not have asked for a finer place to showcase their talents.”

During the Closing Ceremonies, athletes Andy Marshall and Summer Bradley accepted the torch from Ulster County athletes on behalf of Seneca Falls and Area 19, which will host the Fall Games for the next two years.

“We’re so excited that the Games are coming to our Area next year,” Marshall said. “We can’t wait. It’s going to be fun.”

It was clear from the crowd response when the host city was announced at Closing, that many people are excited about going to the Finger Lakes. But don’t be

surprised if the Fall Games come back to Saugerties.

“It is always hard when we leave a community and Saugerties is no exception,” Lawrence said. “But as the event came to a close, many community leaders and organizing committee members were asking us to come back soon.”

Look online at [www.specialolympicsnewyork.org](http://www.specialolympicsnewyork.org) for more photos and competition results. ■

## Conference Focuses on Health Care Needs of Athletes

*Healthy Athletes symposium draws 50 clinicians from across the state.*

Fifty health care professionals from across New York gathered Oct. 3 to 6 in Albany and Saugerties to discuss the best practices for providing clinical health services to patients with mental retardation.

The Special Olympics New York 2002 Healthy Athletes Conference was organized through a grant from the New York State Health Department, whose commissioner, Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.PH., delivered opening remarks.

Dr. Novello congratulated the volunteer spirit of the clinicians, all of whom specialize in providing hearing, dental or vision care. Dr. Novello is a member of the Special Olympics, Inc. Board of Directors.

"Because Special Olympics is based on community involvement, people in our

communities who otherwise might have little to no contact with persons with mental retardation have the opportunity to interact and see these individuals for who they truly are – people who, like the rest of us, experience love, joy, achievement, frustration and pain," Dr. Novello said. "In giving, you will receive more than you give."

**In giving, you will receive more than you give.**

**– Dr. Novello**

The delegation of health care professionals attended Opening Ceremonies of the Fall Games in Saugerties, serving as parade marshals. They spent Saturday staffing the Healthy Athletes tents in Olympic Village, where they delivered health screenings as part of the Opening Eyes, Special Smiles and Healthy Hearing programs.

The training sessions were coordinated by Dr. Vincent Filanova of



Dave Feiden

*Dr. Vincent Filanova, left, discusses Special Smiles with conference attendees.*

Amsterdam; Dr. Beth Lannon of San Francisco; and Dr. Su Danberg of Stamford, Conn.

The objectives of the Special Olympics New York Healthy Athletes initiative is to improve access to health care for Special Olympic athletes, to train and educate health care professionals and students about the special needs of people with mental retardation and to raise general awareness of the health issues facing this population.

Healthy Athletes is sponsored by the state Health Department, Lions Club International and HealthNow New York. ■



Dave Feiden

*Neal Johnson, left, Global Messenger Steve Caruso, and Dr. Novello enjoy a light moment at the start of the conference.*

## Special Olympics Suffolk County Athletes Enjoy a "Day in the Sun"

*Sailing and a picnic mark a day of recreation.*

With a name like a "Day in the Sun," expectations are always high for this annual event.

Luckily for some athletes and coaches from Special Olympics New York – Suffolk County, Mother Nature played along.

"It was a beautiful day with bright sun and just enough wind to carry the nine sailboats with our athletes on board around Northport Bay for a picturesque view of the north shore of Long Island," said Anne Monsees, associate director of development for the Suffolk County program. Through the kindness of the Masthead Cove Yacht Club members, athletes and their coaches were treated to a full morning sail and picnic lunch."

The Masthead Cove Yacht Club members have supported Special Olympics Suffolk County for many years. In addition

to the annual "Day In The Sun," this year marked the Fifth Annual Masthead Cove Yacht Club Race for the benefit of Special

Olympics. Over the past five years, more than \$40,000 has been raised in support of the Suffolk County program. ■



Anne Monsees

*Attendees pose for a lasting memory.*

## Around the State



### Area 9 - Fulton, Montgomery and Hamilton Counties

A total of \$500 was raised for Area 9 at the inaugural Volleyball World Sand Classic competition in Fort Plain. Sixteen coed teams of two competed in the tournament, which was won by Natalie Lavallee and Aaron Kemmer. Prizes were given for second, third and fourth place, as well as for most aces and most times touching the net.

### Area 19 - Ontario, Wayne, Seneca and Yates Counties

A news conference is planned for Oct. 21 at the New York Chiropractic College to announce that the Special Olympics New York 2003-2004 Fall Games will be held at the college, which is in Seneca Falls, Seneca County.

Athletes will compete in seven sports, including Bocce, Cross-Country Running, Cycling, Equestrian, Golf, Soccer and Softball. For more information or to sponsor the Games, call Laurie Kennedy at 585-271-5151, or e-mail lkennedy@nyso.org.

### Area 20 - Monroe County

The Monroe County program recently held its annual volunteer recognition dinner at the Hyatt Regency Rochester. The highlight was the presentation of the Cyr Memorial Outstanding Athlete Awards to athletes from across Monroe County. Organizations and individuals also were recognized for their contributions to the program.

### Area 24 - Chautauqua County

Bowlers from Chautauqua County were recently recognized by *USA Weekend* magazine for their work during Make A Difference Day. Coach Carole Johnson said her athletes have taken part in the annual day of volunteerism since 1994, collecting donations for Chautauqua County Humane Society and the St. Susan Center.

"The community is very good to Special Olympics, so as a way of appreciation, I thought it would be good if my athletes could do something for the community," Johnson told the *Post-Journal* in Jamestown. "The first year we took in food and money for St. Susan's and then the next year I said, 'Maybe we should do something for animals.' My son, Michael, said we had to do both."

Please call, fax or e-mail your Area information to Doreen Hand, 212-661-3963, Fax: 212-661-4658, dhand@nyso.org

## Special Olympics Postage Stamp Unveiled

The U.S. Postal Service unveiled a 2003 Special Olympics postage stamp in September at the National Postal Forum in Boston.

This stamp, which will be issued in early 2003, continues the tradition of social awareness stamps that have been issued since the 1960s. The Special Olympics stamp will be an international-rate stamp intended to help raise awareness. It will be issued to coincide with the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games, which will be held next June in Dublin, Ireland.

The stamp features a computer-generated design by Lance Hidy of Merrimac, Mass. It captures the enthusiastic and communal spirit of Special Olympics.

Current U.S. stamps, as well as a free comprehensive catalog, are available by



calling 800-STAMP-24. In addition, a selection of stamps and other philatelic items are available in the Postal Store at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

## Changing the World in One Million Ways

*Rodney Hankins urges lawmakers to support SO Expansion and Healthy Athletes initiative.*

Rodney Hankins, an athlete from Brooklyn who became a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger earlier this year, visited Washington, D.C., to help convince lawmakers to support a bill to fund a global expansion program and the Healthy Athletes initiative.

Hankins joined Special Olympics President and Chief Executive Officer Timothy Shriver, Ph.D., at a reception at the Capitol and at meetings the following day. Shriver hopes to garner \$5 million in public seed money to expand the Healthy Athletes program worldwide and double the number of athletes served from one million to two million by 2007.

"I think it was wonderful," Hankins said. "I'm glad we got a positive response, especially from Congressman (Jose) Serrano (D-Bronx). He was 100 percent for it. I know that he will be twisting other people's arms to get this passed."



*Hankins meets with Congressman Serrano.*

Around the world, Special Olympics is viewed as a gateway to breaking down barriers, improving living conditions, changing attitudes in education, transforming the views of political leaders and helping athletes find a voice to overcome prejudice.

Federal funding will enable Special Olympics to provide the resources necessary to establish a base of volunteers and leaders in countries where the potential for growth is the greatest. China, Russia, India, Brazil, South Africa and Turkey have made commitments to increase the number of athletes served.

# Athletes and Coaches to Attend World Games

Continued from p. 1

from home. It gives them a chance to make new friends and meet new coaches, and see things they never get to see. It gives them a chance to be more independent.”

Athletes will compete in 21 sports, including Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, Equestrian, Golf, Gymnastics, Powerlifting,



Roller Skating, Sailing, Soccer, Table Tennis, Tennis, Team Handball, and Volleyball. Three demonstration sports will be offered: kayaking, judo and pitch & putt. In order to qualify, New York athletes had to earn Gold medals in the 2002 state Summer Games in Buffalo or the 2001 Fall Games in Saugerties.

Special Olympics New York is seeking sponsors to help offset the costs of sending the athletes of Team New York to the Games. For more information, call Laurie Kennedy at 585-271-5151, x10, or e-mail lkennedy@nyso.org. For general information, visit specialolympicsnewyork.org. ■

## SONY Golfers Compete in Florida Invitational

*Peter Pellegrino and MaryAnne Silverstrim capture Golds in tournament play.*

Seven athletes from New York were among 150 golfers who competed in the third annual Special Olympics Golf National Invitational Tournament Sept. 14 to 17 in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Long Island athlete Peter Pellegrino and MaryAnne

Silverstrim from Sullivan County earned Gold Medals, while Beverly Sum and George Bowden won fourth and sixth place ribbons, respectively. In the skills competition, Gary Zittel of Farmington, Lynn Weinaug of Olean, and Rudy Klockowski from Utica received Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals, respectively.

The tournament featured Special Olympics golfers from 27 U.S.

programs competing in five levels of competition. Area 4 Coordinator Charlie Jones, who served as the head of delegation for New York, said the event was very well run, with PGA rules officials serving as course judges.



*Board member Richie Salinardi and athlete George Bowden (middle) exchanged greetings and golf tips with athlete Christopher Hasak from Fairfield, Conn. and brother James Hasak.*

“The competition was the highest level and it was just a great event,” Jones said. “Our athletes played very well. They rose to the occasion. MaryAnne was seven shots back and came back to win. And Peter played very well.”

If not for heat exhaustion, Jones added, Sum would have likely won Gold in her alternate shot competition. Sum was paired with Martha Pachuta, a coach from Geneseo. Board member Richie Salinardi competed in alternate shot with Staten Island’s Bowden.

Presenting sponsors were the PGA of America and the United States Golf Association (USGA).

The Golf Channel, Cingular Wireless and Phillips 66 were corporate sponsors. Since golf was introduced to Special Olympics in 1988, the PGA has donated more than \$200,000 and PGA professionals have volunteered to train Special Olympics golfers and their

coaches.

During the past decade, thousands of Special Olympics athletes have participated in golf clinics, training programs and competitions in the United States and in more than 20 countries around the world. ■



### How they fared

Peter Pellegrino, Area 31  
18 holes, Gold Medal

MaryAnne Silverstrim, Area 32  
9 holes, Gold Medal

#### Alternate Shot

Martha Pachuta, Beverly Sum,  
Area 21, 4th place

Richie Salinardi, George Bowden,  
Area 35, 6th place

#### Skills

Gary Zittel, Area 19,  
Gold Medal

Lynn Weinaug, Area 25,  
Silver Medal

Rudy Klockowski, Area 12,  
Bronze Medal



# Special Olympics New York

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**T**he New York State Fraternal Order of Police generously raised its annual Fall Classic contribution to \$10,000. This year's Fall Classic, a Section 1 and 2 competition, took place Sept. 21 in Hicksville, Long Island. Special Olympics New York President and Chief Executive Officer, Neal J. Johnson (second from left), accepts the check from FOP members (from left) Michael Golden, Frank Ferreyra, Mike Sinano and Michael Nied.

Mission: To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with mental retardation, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.