



USA NATIONAL GAMES • NEBRASKA



**Special Olympics**

Oklahoma

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Donna Ham, Public Relations Director

Program: Special Olympics Oklahoma

918-481-1234 or 918-694-4483, [donna@sook.org](mailto:donna@sook.org)

Contact: Sarah Van Dalsem, Media Manger

2010 Special Olympics USA National Games

(402) 889-3412, [vandalsem@2010specialolympics.org](mailto:vandalsem@2010specialolympics.org)

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM OKLAHOMA TO COMPETE IN USA NATIONAL GAMES**

Team Oklahoma to compete in 8 sporting competitions in  
USA National Games in Lincoln, Neb.

TULSA, Oklahoma- Team Oklahoma will represent Oklahoma by competing in the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games. The team will have 55 athletes competing in Aquatics, Athletics, Bocce, Bowling, Golf, Powerlifting, Soccer and Volleyball. Accompanying the athletes are 15 coaches and 3 delegates. The USA National Games will be held in Lincoln, Neb., July 18-23 and include 13 different sporting competitions for almost 3,000 Special Olympics athletes from across the United States.

“The National Games are the highest level of competition that most Special Olympics athletes will attain. I, like most people, have never competed in a sport at a national level. However, our athletes are getting this opportunity through their participation in Special Olympics programs,” said John Seals, USA National Games Head of Delegation and Special Olympics Oklahoma Area Services and Sports Director.

Team Oklahoma will also have athletes competing in Bocce, Golf, Soccer and Volleyball Unified Sports. Unified Sports bring athletes both with and without intellectual disabilities to compete side by side as Unified Sports teams.

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“The Unified Sports program gives the athletes without intellectual disabilities the opportunity to compete with and against Special Olympics athletes on an equal setting. They begin to see each other in a different light. When the Special Olympics athletes are encountered in the halls at school, they are seen just as ‘Joey’ or ‘Tommy’, just one of the guys. Special Olympics athletes gain new respect from their peers with and without intellectual disability, and it is an opportunity for them to get to know each other on a one-on-one basis,” said Robert Schaefer, Unified Soccer Coach for Team Oklahoma at the 2010 USA National Games.

### **About the Special Olympics Oklahoma**

More information about Special Olympics Oklahoma can be found at <http://www.specialolympicsoklahoma.org/NationalGames.html>. A list of athletes and their hometowns, biographies and photos can be found here. For more information, please contact Donna Ham at 918-481-1234.

### **About the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games**

The 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska will showcase and celebrate the Special Olympics movement and athletes from across the United States, while illustrating the power of sports to educate and inform about the true abilities and achievements of people with intellectual disabilities. From July 18-23, 2010, nearly 3,000 athletes will compete in 13 Olympic-style sports, with the support of 1,000 coaches, 8,000 volunteers and an estimated 15,000 family and friends. In addition to sports, the USA National Games will offer various programs in health, wellness and education. To learn more, please visit [www.2010specialolympics.org](http://www.2010specialolympics.org)

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