



Special Olympics
Virginia

Loudoun Area 14

P.O. Box 2563
Leesburg, VA 20177



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2011
FALL

mark your calendar >>>

- Jan. 7 SOLC Basketball Tournament
- Jan. 9 SOLC Council Meeting
- Jan. 28-29 Virginia Winter Games

Visit www.loudounspecialolympics.org for a complete calendar of events.



Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun County

Game On!



swimming >>>

Loudoun Dolphins Capture Bounty of Medals

Coach Joy Cavagnaro

Jonathan “the Stingray” Sherrow, Alyson “the Razorfish” Romanish, Jacob “the Barracuda” Collins, Tyler “the Big Tuna” Touve, Matt “the Man-of-War fish” Huyhn, Greg “the Hammerhead Shark” Hicks, Kathryn “the Sailfish” Salgado and Ryan “the Kingfish” Macmac captured 15 gold medals, 4 silver medals and 3 bronze medals at the Virginia state games. It was our swimmers’ best bounty yet!

Practice makes perfect and the hard work put in by our swimmers certainly paid off. Thanks to all the volunteers and special thanks to Coach Joan and Coach Alan for running the extra practice to give swimmers an opportunity to perfect their strokes and speed— it definitely worked! Congratulations to all of this year’s swimmers for their outstanding effort during practices and meets, as well as for their personal accomplishments.



volunteers >>>

All Hands On Deck!

Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun County is anticipating significant growth in the coming year. If you have a background in event planning or corporate giving, we need your help. Please contact Caitlin Marcotte, Area Coordinator, at (703) 777-0438 for more information.

final thoughts...

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The average cost to train a Special Olympics athlete is approximately \$175 per season and we provide this training to our athletes at no cost to them. Special Olympics in Loudoun County is funded by private community members and area businesses who generously donate and participate in our fundraising efforts. Please help us to enrich the self-esteem, joy, and physical well-being of those who need it most. Make your contribution today!

Contact us at 703.777.0438 www.loudounspecialolympics.org

Roll Up Your Sleeves

Supporting Special Olympics doesn’t always mean writing a check or spending your weekends coaching athletes. There are other ways to get involved that make a big difference:

- Host a dinner to introduce your friends to our movement.
- Donate your birthday. Request gifts to SOLC in lieu of other gifts.

- Request an athlete speaker at corporate or community events.
- If you have ideas on unique ways to get involved with Special Olympics, send us an e-mail (admin@loudounspecialolympics.org) and we’ll include it in a future issue of *GameOn!*

Layups in Loudoun Fundraiser Rocks the House

Coach Dan Dillon

The first annual Layups in Loudoun basketball fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun County took place in September at Briar Woods High School in Ashburn. Eric Pearson of E4 Realty and SOLC Council member Bill Brichoux organized the event and reunited many of the best high school basketball players in Loudoun’s history to play a thrilling game for charity.

Roscoe Johnson, Jr. a Park View High School alum who has played with the Harlem Globetrotters, threw down a windmill dunk that had everyone out of their seats. Adding to the excitement were several other well-known Loudoun basketball alumni, including Adam Powers (Park View), Ryan Koppel (Broad Run), and Patrick Behan (Loudoun Valley). The alumni teams were coached by Coach John Costello from Broad Run and Coach Jeff Hawes from Potomac Falls.



Joey Barnett keeps his eye on the net as Coaches Joe Bleull (back to camera) and Dan Dillon attempt to block.

The half time showdown between SOLC athletes Jamie Spiering, Matt Sixma, Warren Carter, Joey Barnett, Russell Turner, Christa Bleull, Joe Downs, Sean Barzandehkar, Scott Brawley, David Knight, Ryan Savage, Ian Pham, and their coaches Neale Ferguson, Dave Hersey, Sandy Troy, Kevin McDonald, Joe Bleull, Bill Brichoux, and me was a barn burner and went down to the wire.

The coaches had a small three-point lead made by Coach Kevin and Coach Dave with Coach Joe hitting from all over, but the

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Our Mission

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

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layups in loudoun >>>

Below: Roscoe Johnson, Jr., a Park View High School alum who has played with the Harlem Globetrotters, entertained fans with his dazzling array of hoop skills.



Times-Mirror photo/Rick Wasser

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speed of the younger athletes wore the coaches down. With fast-break hoops from David Knight, a banked-in three by Warren, and another by Christa, the game was on. The gym was rocking with the alumni teams chanting “DEFENSE! DEFENSE!” as the younger team showed no mercy on their elders.

In the end, it was really Joey Barnett’s night. Following a lot of pre-game trash talking (by the coaches), Joey backed it all up by scoring his first three points 20 seconds into the game and finishing with 20 points on a variety of



Above: Coach Dan Dillon and David Knight tip off at halftime during Layups in Loudoun. It was a punishing game for the coaches as the younger and faster Special Olympics athletes showed no mercy.

threes, drives to the basket, and even a beautiful assist to Warren for another hoop. The crowd went crazy when Joey stole the ball at half court, dribbled to the free throw line, and then stepped behind the arc and just drained a three-pointer from the top of the key. Roscoe Johnson and all the other Loudoun basketball legends leapt out of their seats as they watched the electrifying play of our Special Olympics athletes. It was some of the most fun that I ever had and I was enormously proud that our SOLC athletes played so well and won over a whole lot of new fans.

ask an athlete >>>

Q: Should I Join a Team if I Never Played the Sport Before?
A: Definitely!

You don’t have to know how to play the sport to join a Special Olympics team. Coaches and experienced athletes will help you learn as you go along. The important thing is to have fun, make friends, and get fit. Do your best and your teammates will cheer for you no matter how well you play.



Russell Turner, Athlete
Bowling, Volleyball & Basketball

softball >>>

All-Stars celebrate with bronze medal at NIT.

What a Season! Softball Teams Hit it Big

Teamwork: Taking it to the Next Level

Veterans and rookies attended softball spring training in March at Diamond Elite. The Rangers and Cardinals practiced every week to prepare for the Bedford Moose Tournament in May.

Paula Culvyhouse’s Cardinals won silver at Bedford with the help of coaches Tra VanDenburgh and Judy Bleull. Coach Bill Brichoux’s Rangers won bronze and was assisted by Coaches Randy Brawley and Chau Pham.

Battle of the Golden Helmets

A season highlight for both teams was winning the Battle of the Golden Helmets at Franklin Park in July. The Cardinals played Fairfax’s Lion’s Pride in its sixth annual battle and the Rangers played the Winchester Athletics in its second.

Cardinal Philip Coe concentrates on smashing the ball.



All-Stars Travel to NIT

Loudoun County was selected to represent Virginia at the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) held in Illinois. Head Coach Brichoux led the All-Stars through weeks of practice in preparation for the August tournament. Playing against tough competitors, the team did an impressive job on the field winning three out of five games and earning a bronze medal.



Chargers Win Gold at Summer Games

SOLC was invited to send one team to the Summer Games. Athletes from the Rangers and Cardinals were selected to represent their teammates and called themselves the Chargers. Head Coach Culvyhouse was assisted by coaches from both teams. The Chargers played hard and won the gold.

FUNdraising >>>

SOLC’s First Golf Tournament Fundraiser a Huge Success

In August, a whopping 74 participants enjoyed a day of golf amid beautiful views of the Potomac at the exclusive River Creek Golf Club in Leesburg. It was the first golf tournament fundraiser organized by SOLC and “clearly a huge success” according to SO Potomac Region Director Eamonn Garvey.

The event received strong support from the local business community including major sponsors Rockwell Collins, SunCrest Builders, Middleburg Bank, Lansdowne Resort and River Creek Club. Valuable cash awards were presented to the foursomes with the first, second and third lowest scores. Golfers with the longest drive and those who made shots closest to the pin received prizes donated by area businesses. A swing evaluation by golf pro Doug Cedeno, bowling at Village Lanes and KingPinz, and gift certificates to several popular restaurants were raffled during lunch.

As the tournament came to a close, a satisfied crowd congratulated lead organizer Jim Mahood and Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun for a job well done.

