

Coordinator's Corner

Welcome to a much needed edition of the Stargazer! I apologize that it has taken so long for me to get a newsletter out, but finally here it is!

It is hard to believe that the holidays have flown by us and another year has past. As we say goodbye to 2005, I look back on the year for the Northwest Superstars.

The athletes have accomplished so much in this year and I am so proud of each and every one of them. We all (volunteers, coaches, and athletes) made it through another State Summer Games, although it was a hot one, another year of softball, golf, bowling, and swimming. The basketball season is underway and before we know it....spring sports will be here! So much is happening with our athletes and volunteers! Our organization continues to grow and I look forward to us continuing to expand. A few new athletes have joined our program in the last few months and you will see their names as you read through this newsletter. Welcome, Welcome! We now have over 70 athletes...WOW!

I encourage all of you to look through this newsletter to see many of the great things that are happening with our organization and its many athletes and volunteers.

In addition, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for helping to make my job easier, fun, and enjoyable. I could not do it without the support, guidance, and trust that I receive not only from our Board, but also from the many families and volunteers that comprise our organization! You all are the best and I thank you!

Andrea Fogt

In this Issue of the Stargazer:

- ★ Happy Birthday to....
- ★ Exciting News for the Superstars
- ★ State Summer Games Wrap-Up
- ★ Softball Wrap-Up
- ★ Unified Golf Wrap-Up
- ★ Bowling Wrap-Up
- ★ Swimming Season
- ★ Basketball Season Underway
- ★ Fundraising Report
- ★ Mark Your Calendars

Happy Birthday (& Belated Birthday) To:

John-John Pazdzior - 1/3
Lisa Mangerchine - 1/6
Dexter Wilson - 1/8 (NWSO Treasurer)
Cathy Daniels - 1/9
Matt Mount - 1/13
Tim Ryan - 1/13
Katie Benware - 1/17
Daniel Wolford - 1/18
Brett Bauer - 1/23 (Volunteer)
Michelle Bowman - 1/27
Jackie Laderer - 1/31

Kelli Kesselring - 2/2
Butch Watts - 2/2
Andrew Blackmon - 2/8
Nathan Post - 2/20
Stephanie Bashaw - 2/21

Tara Williams - 3/2
Pat Rieve - 3/2
Donnie Watts - 3/5
Mary Jo Watts - 3/7
Garey Scott - 3/7 (Golf Partner)
Lindsay Gantzer - 3/16
Cody Randall - 3/18
Andrew Schaefer - 3/31

Steve Kaser - 4/2 (Volunteer)
Susie Hager - 4/6 (Coach/Volunteer)
Lewis Jernigan - 4/6
John Swartz - 4/13 (Coach/Vice President of Board)
Bethany Wilson - 4/18
Mandy Woitovich - 4/19
Justin McKiernan - 4/20
Brittany Blue - 4/21
Andy Sprockett - 4/24

*Please let me know if I have forgotten anyone!



Congratulations to Northwest Superstar Athletes

We received some exciting news from Special Olympics Ohio in November! Six of our Northwest Superstar athletes will be attending the National Games in Ames, Iowa in July 2006! Our athletes are very honored to be representing Special Olympics Ohio in three sports!

Katie Ragsdale, MaryJo Watts, and Tara Williams will be part of the Team Ohio Female Basketball Team (made up of athletes from the Superstars, Franklin County Flyers, and the Columbus Comets). Loren Hager and Andy Sprockett will play on the Team Ohio Traditional Volleyball Team. Finally, Sean Moore will be one of many athletes on the Team Ohio Unified Softball Team! In addition, Michelle Bowman has been chosen as an alternate for the female basketball team and Mitch Fogt has been chosen as an alternate for the unified softball team. This means that if something happens to one of the other players before they go, Mitch and Michelle will be next in line to attend! We are all very excited for our athletes and wish them luck and success as they become part of Team Ohio for the National Games!

Along with many of these athletes families, Mitch, Isabella, and myself will attend to cheer on our Superstar athletes. We will all bring back lots of pictures to share with our Superstar family!

The cost for each athlete to attend is \$500, which covers their airfare, hotel, and meals while they are away. Since they are part of Special Olympics, this cost is to be paid for by our organization. A big "Thank You" goes to the members of the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Columbus (Dublin), as they have donated enough to cover the National Games costs! We cannot thank organizations like this enough for the support they continue to give to us! Thank you, Thank you!

Be sure to congratulate these athletes the next time you see them as they have been chosen to be part of something truly special!

More information can be found at www.2006nationalgames.org.



State Summer Games 2005

June 24-26, 2005 at The Ohio State University

The 2005 State Summer Games proved to be a HOT one! It was quite steamy this year in the non-air conditioned dorms...and the coaches have convinced me to try and get spots in the towers next year...which, Yes, are air-conditioned!!! All I can do is ask Special Olympics Ohio...we will see what they have to say!

Despite the heat...the athletes had a tremendous time, as did the coaches! We had several first-timers and that is always an adventure! The adventure lies in whether or not we will be able to pry their parents away from them when they drop them off at the dorms! This always proves to be very tough on parents...and now that I am one...I can see where it would be difficult! However, the athletes have a great time, are well cared for, and are gaining independence in being away from their parents! I think that the coaches, volunteers, and I continue to have more fun than the athletes on these overnights! We are able to spend more time with the athletes, get to know them a little better, and build a closer friendship that might not be possible in a short practice session! In addition, what could possibly be more fun than spending a lot of time at tent town listening to the athletes karaoke, watching people dance, winning FREE toys at the games, and of course eating lots and lots of snow cones!

Below I have listed the results from the 2005 State Summer Games...Congratulations to all of the athletes for their continued success!

Power lifting (Coaches Mike Brenner & Becky Maier)

Mitch Adams - Deadlift = 2nd, Bench = 5th, and Combination (bench & deadlift) = 3rd

Phil McCafferty - Deadlift = 3rd, Bench = 6th, and Combination = 5th

Gymnastics (Coaches Marcy Mnich, Andrea Sagar, & Kendall)

Lisa Mangerchine - Balance Beam = 4th, Floor Exercise = 3rd, Vault = 2nd, Uneven Bars = 3rd, & All Around = 3rd

Michele Martin - Balance Beam = 3rd, Floor Exercise = 3rd, Vault = 2nd, Uneven Bars = 3rd, & All Around = 3rd

Track & Field (Coach Mitch Fogt)

Timothy Gardner - 100M Dash = 1st & Softball Throw = 2nd

Jessica Land - 200M Dash = 3rd & Softball Throw = 6th

Peyton Lehmilller - 50M Dash = 4th & Softball Throw = 4th

Alex Lojo - 400M Dash = 2nd & Running Long Jump = 2nd

Lauren Mayfield - 100M Dash = 5th & Softball Throw = 1st

Matt Mount - 200M Dash = 3rd & Softball Throw = 4th

Katie Ragsdale - 800M Run = 2nd & Running Long Jump = 2nd

Pat Rieve - 100M Dash = 5th & Softball Throw = 2nd

Tim Ryan - Pentathlon (consists of 5 events - 100M Dash, 400M Dash, Running Long Jump, High Jump, & Shot Put) = 2nd

Joe Waters - 200M Dash = 1st & Softball Throw = 1st

Donnie Watts - 200M Dash = 1st & Standing Long Jump = 2nd

MaryJo Watts - 200M Dash = 2nd & Standing Long Jump = 1st

Bethany Wilson - 200M Dash = 1st & 400M Dash = 3rd

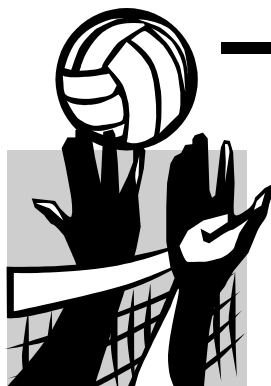
Traditional Volleyball Team = 5th

Cathy Daniels, Loren Hager, Lewis Jernigan, Kelli Kesselring, Nathan Post, Eric Ramsey, Annie Richardson, & Lisi Villar & Coach Eric Homan

Unified (consists of Special Olympics athletes and partners) Volleyball Team = 5th

Josh Bown, Danny Garling (partner), Jake Hager (partner), Drew Hollem, John Kilbury (partner), Andy Sprockett, & Tara Williams & Coach Steve Davis

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



A Chilly & Rainy State Softball Tournament

September 16 - 18, 2005 - Toledo, Ohio

The State Softball Tournament was a little rainy this year; so rainy that the Friday games were postponed to Saturday. This made our Saturday schedule a little crazy, and as most of you know, our softball coaches were a little concerned they would miss the Ohio State Buckeye football game. Lucky for the unified team, they were able to see the entire game. However, the traditional team was not so lucky and they had to play during the last 3 quarters.....thank goodness the Buckeyes won! Anyway, with the rainout on Friday the games were all shortened from 1 ½ hour to 1 hour games! This made it very difficult for most of the teams, but we all managed! It made the games very exciting, but kept the coaches a little stressed...as most of you can imagine! A 1 hour time limit is not a very long time during a softball game!



The teams adjusted and the unified team even received 1st place! Congratulations to Coach John Swartz and his softball players! The traditional team, coached by Danny Garling and Doug Foster, received 2nd place, losing a very tight and well played game in the final!

State Golf Tournament

September 20-21, 2005

Three of our unified golf teams traveled to Cincinnati to compete in the annual state golf tournament. The unified golf teams are made up of one athlete and one partner. Two of our teams, Lloyd & Andy Sprockett and Garey & Juan Scott, were unable to attend, but they did practice throughout the entire season. Congratulations to our teams for an awesome golf year...your effort and hard work has paid off!



Results from the golf tournament

Tim Ryan Sr. and Tim Ryan Jr. - tied for 2nd place with a 42

Steve Davis and Ken Wilcox - 1st place with a 39

John Kilbury and Tara Williams (1st year playing golf) - 1st place with a 41

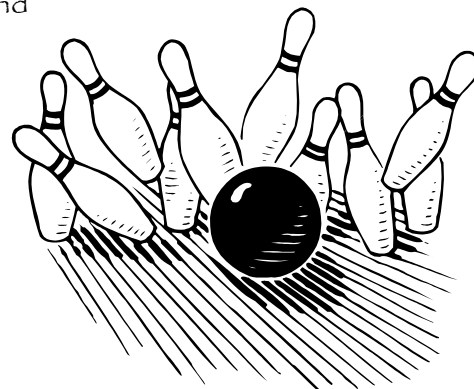
State Bowling Tournament

October 30, 2005 – Sawmill Lanes

Congratulations to John Swartz and his terrific group of bowlers this season! We had a wonderful time bowling and look forward to next season! The season was longer this year and worked out better for the bowlers. We had 30 athletes and 4 partners bowling this year. All of our bowlers improved over last year...Great Job! At the State Tournament the Superstars came away with 2 gold medals, 3 silver medals, 4 bronze metals, and 1 5th place ribbon! We were also lucky to have some wonderful Bishop Watterson students who helped us make sure we were bowling in order and on the proper lane. This was the 4th year Watterson has provided us with volunteers. Great job and thank you to those Watterson students! I would like to thank all of the athletes, partners, and volunteers on a terrific season!

Coach John Swartz

Below are the results from the tournament:



Doubles Teams

Phil McCafferty & Matt Mount – 2nd place

Jason Kable & Joe Waters – 3rd place

Mandy Voitovich (1st time bowler) & Lisa Mangerchine – 1st place

4-Person Teams

Andy Swartz, Mitch Adams, Nick Haynes, & Robert Coffman – 2nd place

Tim Haynes, Drew Hollern, Daniel Wolford, & Loren Hager – 1st place

Lisi Villar, Monica Murawski, Annie Richardson, & Katie Jannarino – 2nd place

Timothy Gardner (1st time bowler), Nathan Post, Pat Rieve, & Matthew McQuaid – 3rd place

Katie Benware (1st time bowler) & Stephanie Bashaw (other 2 bowlers did not bowl) – 5th place

Unified Teams (consists of 2 athletes and 2 partners)

Ken Wilcox, Josh Bown, Mitch Fogt, & Steve Davis – 3rd place

Kelli Kesselring, Lindsay Gantzer, Sarah Bauer, & Andrea Fogt – 3rd place

Congratulations to all the teams...Great Job!

State Swim Meet

December 17-18, 2005 - Ohio State University



The athletes were able to swim in the new aquatics facility at The Ohio State University this year! It is a beautiful new pool and not overly hot in the facility for the coaches and parents! Dottie Sullivan and John King were back for another year of coaching, thank goodness! With the state swim meet being in a new facility, the state office had to set a quota on the number of athletes each organization was able to bring to the event. This was unfortunate for the organization, but this seems to be the case with many of our state events as the numbers for Special Olympics in Ohio are increasing! The athletes did a great job training for all of the meets that they attended and continue to make improvements from year to year! Good job to all of the athletes for their continued success and working to "beat their personal bests"!

The Results

Jake Dymek

50M Freestyle - 1st place
50M Backstroke - 3rd place

Loren Hager

100M Backstroke - 3rd place
100M Freestyle - 2nd place

Kelli Kesselring

50M Freestyle - 3rd place
50M Backstroke - 2nd place

Jackie Laderer

25M Freestyle - 2nd place

Peyton Lehmilller

25 M Freestyle - 1st place

Alex Lojo

100M Freestyle - 2nd place
100M Backstroke - 2nd place

Justin McKiernan

25M Freestyle - 5th place

Sean Moore

100M Freestyle - 2nd place
100M Backstroke - 2nd place

Nathan Post

25M Freestyle - 5th place

Andy Swartz

100M Freestyle - 1st place
100M Backstroke - 1st place

Joe Waters

25M Freestyle - 4th place

Donnie Watts

50M Freestyle - 1st place

MaryJo Watts

50M Freestyle - 1st place

Bethany Wilson

50M Freestyle - 3rd place
100M Backstroke - 4th place

4x50M Relay (Kelli Kesselring, MaryJo Watts, Jake Dymek, Donnie Watts) - 4th place

4x25M Relay (Justin McKiernan, Peyton Lehmilller, Jackie Laderer, Nathan Post) - disqualified

Basketball Season Underway



Once again this year we have 3 basketball teams and our basketball individual skills program. The athletes have been doing a wonderful job for their coaches and the teams have already played many games are now preparing for the tournaments! The athletes are improving in many areas and building on their strengths, while also continuing to grow and improve as a team!

The skills program is being coached by Cathy Patterson and Jen Rambin this year! We welcome Coach Jen to our program and look for her to continue with us in the years to come! They had an area meet on Saturday, February 11th at Whetstone High School, which proved to be very rewarding for the athletes and the coaches!

Following, I have listed the basketball teams and their tournament schedules! The games are so much fun to watch and it is a wonderful opportunity to cheer on our Superstars! The State Tournament will take place at Bowling Green State University March 24th - 26th.

Athletes participating in the Basketball Individual Skills Program

Katie Benware, Anthony Croghan, Timothy Gardner, Haley Harkins, Peyton Lehmilller, Jordan-Kate Moore*, Shadi Mouala*, John-John Pazdzior, Pat Rieve, Andrew Schaefer*, Joe Waters, & Jabari Wilson*

* = New athletes in our program! Welcome!

Female Team (coached by John Kilbury, John Stieg, Barb Stieg, & Andrea Sagar)

Athletes on the team: Michelle Bowman, Lindsay Gantzer, Kelli Kesselring, Jackie Laderer, Jessica Land, Katie Ragsdale, Annie Richardson, MaryJo Watts, Tara Williams, & Bethany Wilson

Tournament Schedule

Saturday, February 25th vs. Franklin Flyers at Northland High School - 9:30am

*If they win, they will move to 2nd round on Saturday, March 4th vs. Comets at Walnut Ridge HS - 4:30pm

*If they lose 1st or 2nd round, they are finished.

*If they win both 1st & 2nd game, they will go the State Tournament at Bowling Green State University

School-Age Male Team (coached by Jake Hager, Susie Hager, & Eric Homan)

Athletes on the team: Mitch Adams, Robert Coffman, Jake Dymek, Tim Haynes, Drew Hollern, Alex Lojo, Nathan Post, Eric Ramsey, Jacob Springer, Daniel Wolford, & Donnie Watts

Tournament Schedule

Saturday, March 4th vs. Upper Arlington at Walnut Ridge HS - 11:15am

*If they win, they will move to 2nd round on Sunday, March 5th vs. Comets at Walnut Ridge HS - 2:45pm

*If they lose game 1 or 2, they will be finished.

*If they win games 1 and 2, they will proceed to the State Tournament at Bowling Green State University.

Adult Male Team (coached by Mitch Fogt, Jonathan Wilcox, Matt Warren, & John Swartz)

Athletes on the team: Nick Haynes, Josh Jernigan, Jason Kable, Phil McCafferty, Sean Moore, Matt Mount, Tim Ryan, Andy Sprockett, & Andy Swartz

Tournament Schedule

Saturday, March 4th vs. Tuscarawas County at Dover Middle School - 2:15pm

*If they win, they will advance to the State Tournament at Bowling Green State University

*If they lose, they are finished.

Good luck to all of our basketball teams and to our individual skills athletes!

The athletes love to have fellow athletes, parents, volunteers, and friends in the stands cheering them on...so I would encourage all of you to join us at any of the basketball games to help fill the stands!

FUNDRAISING CORNER

Annual Golf Tournament

July 18, 2005 at Heritage Golf Club in Hilliard

ABIG Thank You goes out to Terry Williams for our 10th successful golf outing! Once again Consolidated Stores sponsored our annual golf tournament and made it very rewarding for all involved. Approximately 30 foursomes came out to enjoy a wonderful day of golfing and fun in support of our Northwest Special Olympics organization! We cannot thank Terry, Consolidated Stores, the golfers, and the volunteers enough for their continued support of our program. In addition, I would like to thank the many people and companies who donated so many items for our auction. These included many golf items, computer items, a video monitor, area rugs, a leg lamp just like the one in Christmas Story, a miniature motorcycle with Ohio State decals on it, and many other objects that people were able to bid on. We look for this golf tournament to be a success for the many years to come!



Car Washes are a Success

July 2005 & August 2005

Thank you to all of those who participated in our car washes this year! This is a great opportunity for families to come out and volunteer and clean up some cars. We appreciate all of our volunteers and a Big Thank You goes to the Haynes Family for organizing this enjoyable fundraiser where the athletes and their families can help out our organization.

Annual Cash Drop

September 30, 2005 – Dublin and Hilliard Intersections

This past cash drop was not as successful as those we have had in the past. However, the many donations that we received are always much appreciated and go to a great organization. Without all of the donations from so many of our fundraisers, we would not be able to purchase new equipment and uniforms for the teams, go on overnights in hotels and the OSU dorms, or participate in many of the area and state events that Special Olympics hosts.

This year we had enough volunteers to do 2 corners, 1 in Dublin and 1 in Hilliard. My goal is that in 2006 we will have enough volunteers to do at least 3 corners, 2 in Hilliard and the 1 in Dublin. In order to do this parental help will need to increase! Even if you are able to volunteer for 1 hour...it helps! This year our volunteers consisted 8 parents and 9 volunteers/coaches who stood on the two corner for 2-4 hours to collect money for our athletes. Please, please consider helping out this fall to offer some relief to those who have continued to volunteer to do the cash drop over the many years!

A Few Kind Words from Fellow Coaches, Volunteers, Families and/or Athletes

(This section will be dedicated to any parents, coaches, volunteers, or athletes who would like to send out a message. I will do my best to put any of your notes in this section!)

- ☺ The following is a message from Amy Hellman (A Bishop Watterson student who volunteered for swimming this year):

“Thank you so much for allowing me to volunteer with the Special Olympics swimming program. I had the most amazing time with everyone. I would be honored to come back and help next year. Everyone was so sweet and welcoming. I felt like I really connected with the athletes. Thank you for so many great memories. I am so glad that I chose Special Olympics swimming for my service project. The athletes were so welcoming and willing to give me a chance. I had such a positive experience and being around those athletes helps to remind you to appreciate the smaller, simpler things in life. I want to thank you for my gifts. They sit in my room and every time I see them I smile and think of you guys! It was such a thoughtful idea! I would come back in a heartbeat anytime and I will keep rooting for the...NORTHWEST SUPERTARS!”

Love, Amy Hellman

- ☺ A message from Andrea

Dear Parents/Families/Volunteers,

I want to inform all of you of a volunteer who has decided to step down as our Fundraising Chairperson over the last few years, Clair Land, who has done an exceptional job of helping organize our fundraising efforts. She has always been there during our Lazaurs/Macy's Shop for a Cause fundraiser, always stood on a street corner for our Cash Drop, and has made many phone calls getting our families involved in our fundraising. These are just a few of our money making efforts that help our Special Olympics program continue and we will miss Clair in heading these up in the future. Please know that you will be missed and know that you will not be easily replaced. Clair, thank you so much for all you have done for Northwest Special Olympics!

Sincerely,

Andrea and the Northwest Superstars

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 25-26 – Area Basketball Tournament – Northland HS

March 4-5 – Sectional Basketball Tournament – Walnut Ridge HS

March 24-26 – State Basketball Tournament – Bowling Green State University

April 2 – 1st Track Practice – Hilliard Darby HS – 6-7pm

April 2 – 1st Power lifting Practice – Power Shack Fitness Center – 7-8:30pm

April 5 – Volleyball Tryouts – Dublin Karrer MS – 7-8:30pm

April 6 – 1st Gymnastics Practice – Fliptastic Gymnastics – 4:30-5:30pm

May 6 – Amanda Clearcreek Meet (Volleyball)

May 7 – Denison Meet (Track & Power lifting)

May 13 – Columbus Classic at Whetstone HS (Track, Power lifting, & Volleyball)

June 4 – Area 6 Gymnastics (Capitol City)

June 15 – Annual Summer Picnic at Homestead Park (this date is tentative)

June 23-25 – State Summer Games at The Ohio State University

July 9 – Softball Tryouts

July 15 – Northwest Special Olympics Dance organized by Susie Hager & Andrea Fogt
**(this is a tentative date and the dance will most likely be a “Hawaiian Luau” theme)

July 17 – Annual Golf Tournament at Heritage Country Club

