



Special Olympics
New Jersey

PRESS RELEASE

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New Jersey Athletes Represent Team USA at 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise

LAWRENCEVILLE –The 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games took place February 7-13 in Boise, Idaho with 22 New Jersey athletes participating. The team joined more than 3,000 athletes from over 100 countries.

The week long festivities started with a spectacular opening ceremony at the Idaho Center in Nampa, Idaho. Team USA was escorted into the stadium by Maria Shriver, daughter of Special Olympics founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. The athletes were treated to music by Darius Rucker and a speech by Tony Robbins.

Special Olympics New Jersey athletes participated in four of the seven sports offered at the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, going through daily competitions and qualifying rounds. Throughout the week-long competition, athletes were able to display their athletic skill, determination and courage that they have gained.

TEAM USA – NEW JERSEY

Alpine Skiing

Sal Cangialosi, 25, Green Brook
Patricia Michaels, 33, Scotch Plains

Cross Country Skiing

Junichi Kusakawa, 23, West Windsor
Ann Marie Lammerding, 33, Hamilton
Rebecca Scheick, 19, Ewing

Figure Skating

Kristen Clark, 31, Bernardsville
Suzanne Comi, 31, Berkeley Heights
Ryan O'Rourke, 20, Newton

Floor Hockey Team

Michael Dellaira, 19, Wrightstown
Brian Eitzen, 31, Williamstown
David Fountain, 19, Medford
Peter Harmon, 20, Willingboro
Leslie King, Jr., 22, Willingboro
Kevin McCormac, 24, Eastampton

Chris McCormac, 29, Eastampton
Steven Rodenbeck, 25, Marlton
Paul Rodenbeck, 30, Marlton
Sean Silver, 35, Sewell
Derrick Spicer, 19, Robbinsville
Christopher Thorpe, 24, Willingboro
Andrew Vanderpoel, 26, Mt. Holly
Brian Vasquez, 16, Pennsauken

There were also many stars present to cheer on the athletes and encourage them in their competition. Appearances included Olympic skater Scott Hamilton and actor Johnny Knoxville.

For more information about the members of Team USA, visit <http://www.specialolympicsteamusa.org/>. To view the results of each sport, visit <http://www.2009worldgames.org/results>.

For more information about Special Olympics New Jersey, visit www.sonj.org.

ABOUT SONJ: Special Olympics New Jersey provides 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.