



Special Olympics
New Jersey

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:
Doreen Pustizzi
Senior Director, Communications
609-896-8000 ext. 274
dlp@sonj.org
@SONewJersey

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 26, 2010

TEAM NEW JERSEY RETURNS VICTORIOUS FROM 2010 USA NATIONAL GAMES

Local Special Olympics athletes compiled more than 80 medals in Nebraska last week.

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – Team New Jersey took home 81 medals, including team Gold in Basketball and team Bronze in Soccer and Flag Football, at the 2010 Special Olympics National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska. The team, comprised of 52 athletes and 15 coaches from all across New Jersey, returned home on Saturday, July 24. Every athlete received at least one medal at the Games.

The 2010 USA National Games took place July 18 to 23 on and around the campus of the University of Nebraska. It was the largest sporting event held in the history of Nebraska with approximately 2,800 athletes, 1,000 coaches, and 8,000 volunteers participating. Special Olympics New Jersey athletes competed in Aquatics, Basketball, Bowling, Bocce, Flag Football, Golf, Track & Field, or Soccer.

“After attending World and National games for the past 27 years, I believe this New Jersey delegation – athletes, coaches, families and delegation support – proved to be one of the most remarkable groups ever assembled to represent our program at a games,” said Marc Edenzon, President of Special Olympics New Jersey. “We could not be any more proud of the performance of our athletes and their commitment and dedication as well as that of their families, coaches and the sponsors of this team.”

Even Governor Chris Christie weighed in on the team’s success via his Twitter account. “Very proud! The athletes competing are truly an inspiration for all.”

SONJ athletes competing at the National level qualify to be on Team USA for the 2011 Special Olympics World Games in Athens, Greece. The number of slots for that team has yet to be determined.

Special Olympics New Jersey provides year-round sports training and competition in 24 sports to more than 21,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, completely free of charge.

For more information on Team New Jersey and the 2010 National Games, visit www.sonj.org.

-more-

TEAM NEW JERSEY RETURNS, Pg. 2

ABOUT THE 2010 USA NATIONAL GAMES:

The 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska showcased and celebrated 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 competed 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 offered various programs in health, wellness and education. To learn more, please visit www.2010specialolympics.org.

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW JERSEY:

With headquarters at the SONJ Sports Complex in Lawrenceville, Special Olympics New Jersey provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in 24 Olympic-type sports for more than 21,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities throughout New Jersey at the local, county, sectional and state level, completely free of charge.

INTERVIEWS:

Local Team NJ athletes and coaches are available upon request. See links below for hometown and bio information.

Marc Edenzon is available for interview. Please e-mail DLP@sonj.org to set up a time.

LINKS:

Full New Jersey Results with athlete hometowns: <http://www.sonj.org/iCMS/Files/00927.pdf>

Official Media Guide: <http://www.sonj.org/iCMS/Files/00905.pdf>

Photos from the Games: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sonewjersey/sets/72157624523795576/>