

Triumph



Special Olympics New York • March 2001

Special Olympics New York Athlete to Compete at Nationals

World Games athlete Tray Greene heading to Michigan.



Special Olympics New York athlete Tray Greene has qualified to compete in the U.S. Amateur Speedskating Union's (ASU) National Short Track Championship

in Michigan this month – a rare, if not unprecedented, accomplishment for a Special Olympics athlete.

Greene, who turns 21 this month, will get no break from the World Winter Games in Anchorage before he takes off for Bay City, where he will compete March 15 to 17 against some of the nation's best and most promising speed skaters. The ASU is an important step in qualifying for the national team.

"I'm looking forward to facing someone that can push me, make me do

better," said Greene. "Hopefully it will be challenging."

Greene began skating in sixth grade and has shown remarkable and steady improvement, first under the guidance of coaches Cris Knapp and Laurie Kennedy, of Rochester, and now with Olympic champion Cathy Turner.

Turner, also of Rochester, came out of retirement in 1992 to capture a gold medal in the Olympic short-track competition in Albertville, France. She defended her title in 1994 in the games in Lillehammer, Norway, and now teaches skating near her home. Greene, whose times have improved dramatically under Turner, has adopted some of her trademark aggressiveness on the ice.

Greene began training with the Jefferson Training Club in Rochester and has matured into a great competitor with a quiet confidence but a lightning stride. He often challenges high school hockey

players in his town to races around the rink. They skate in relays, while Greene skates

His goal is to make the Olympic team.
-- Cris Knapp, coach

alone, barely breaking a sweat.

"It's been a lot of hard work. I spend most of my winters on the ice and in the summer I go up to Cobb Hill to train at Cathy's house," Greene said.

In a 333-meter preliminary race at the World Winter Games on March 6, he bolted to a 15-meter lead by the first turn and breezed to victory.

"His goal is to make the Olympic team," said Knapp.

But before he can think of Salt Lake City in 2002, Greene must concentrate on Bay City. "I'm sure I will get a little bit nervous, but not as bad as when I first started competing," Greene said. "I just want to go and have fun." ■

Buffalo to Host Summer Games for the Next Two Years

More than 2,200 athletes and coaches will visit the region.

After a 13-year absence, Special Olympics New York is returning to the Queen City for the Summer Games.

More than 2,200 athletes and coaches are expected to participate in the games, with the help of nearly 2,000 volunteers from Western New York.

"It is a great privilege to be among the sponsors of the Special Olympics Summer Games, and to be hosting the games here in Western New York," said Honorary Co-Chair Danny Wegman, president of Wegmans

supermarket chain. "Our own employees, whose family members participate in Special Olympics and who are themselves volunteers and coaches for Special Olympics, join me in welcoming the Summer Games to Buffalo."

Wegman, who joins a distinguished Local Organizing Committee, will partner with fellow Honorary Co-Chairs Robert Rich, Jr. and Mindy Rich of Rich Products Corp. to raise awareness and funds for the games.

"Mindy and I are proud to be co-chairing, together with the Wegman

Continued on p.5



Erie County Sheriff Patrick Gullivan and his wife Mary Pat address the Buffalo press about their involvement in Summer Games.

Staff Photo

What's

INSIDE

3 World Games

4 State Winter Games

6 Around the State

A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson is President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



This month, seven athletes and three coaches are in Anchorage, Alaska, for the World Winter Games.

On Feb. 28, I witnessed the excitement among members of Team New York at a

send-off party at the Syracuse headquarters of the New York State United Teachers - one of the World Games sponsors. It again reminded me of the importance of world competitions in the Special Olympics movement.

Special Olympics has been at the forefront of a global trend toward respect and tolerance of people with all disabilities. The athletes have helped open eyes and minds for more than 30 years. The World Games provide a worldwide stage to help us continue this work.

In the sports world, athletes ready themselves for competitions either on their own or with coaches or teams. They do this in gyms, on fields, on slopes and in rinks all over the world, mostly out of public view. While they train, however, they strive for something bigger. They endure the tough practices and physical strain in hopes of one day competing for a greater prize.

You can drive down any street in America and see children playing in their yards, pretending it's the bottom of the ninth in the World Series, or counting backwards toward a fictitious buzzer as they attempt the "game winning" shot. It is inherent in us to dream of a chance to win it all, to be a champion.

The Special Olympics World Games provide this chance for our athletes every two years. This year, Kevin Brown, Diane Budnar, Tray Greene, Kim Kinsey, Danny Voelxen, Alicia Zeitz and Nick Zmuda are on that world stage - showcasing their talents for themselves, their families and the 40,000 athletes they represent.

We all should be very proud of these athletes and all they have accomplished. I know I truly am. ■

2001 Calendar of Events

March

- 4-11 **World Winter Games, Anchorage, Alaska**
- 10 Sections 3 and 4 Bowling (under 21) competition, Clifton Park Bowl, Clifton Park
- 10 Office Furniture USA Golf Challenge, Golf Dome, Latham
- 17 LETR Polar Plunge, Fishkill
- 24 Section 5 Basketball, Seneca Falls
- 28 Section 5 Event Directors' meeting, Geneseo
- 31 Section 3 Aquatics/Basketball competition, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs

Also scheduled during March, with dates to be confirmed:

- Section 1 meeting*
- Section 2 meeting*
- Training Schools - Scheduled as needed throughout the year*

* Please contact your Director of Field Services or the Special Olympics New York office for details

APRIL

- 21 Section 1 Basketball/Aquatics Fordham University, Bronx
- 21 Section 4 Aquatics/Basketball SUNY Oswego

Also scheduled during April, with dates to be confirmed:

- Area Coordinators Council Meeting
- Training Schools - Scheduled as needed throughout the year*

May

- 5 Section 5 Aquatics/Volleyball, Canisius College, Buffalo
- 8 LETR Golf Tournament, Nevele Grande, Kerhonkson
- 19 Section 2 Volleyball, Hommocks School, Mamaroneck

Also scheduled during May, with dates to be confirmed:

- LETR Plane Pull, Albany International Airport
- Training Schools - Scheduled as needed throughout the year*

Triumph

Vol. 5, No. 3 March 2001

Triumph is published 12 times a year by the Public Relations Department for the athletes, volunteers, employees, Board members, Area programs and sponsors of Special Olympics New York, Inc.

Inspire Greatness

Special Olympics New York, Inc., 504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304-2290
Phone: (518) 388-0790 Fax: (518) 388-0795 Web site: www.specialolympicsnewyork.org

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW YORK BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anthony J. Bifaro, Chairman	Sara Daggett	William J. Murabito	Richard Salinardi
Thomas E. Blake	Marla J. Glickman	Thomas F. O'Brien	John F. Von Ahn
Daniel J. Callahan	Lynn M. McCann	Eileen M. Pfeiffer	

BOARD MEMBERS

Dayle Bass	Dorothy M. Chapman	Cheryl L. Jonas-Acquilla	Frank R. Mazzuca	Carmen J. Smith
Allan O. Birkett	William Harrington	James R. MacPhail	Kathi Nolan	Theodore Wolfstich
Susan A. Brandt	Kathryn Henry	James T. Mahoney	Warren Pick	
Menzo D. Case	James F. Horan	Steven Maiman	Judy Sedore	

TRIUMPH STAFF

James J. Smith Vice President, Public Relations	Doreen Hand Editor
-------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------

Athletes and Coaches Enjoy All That Alaska Has to Offer

World Games trip to Anchorage a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Organizers of the World Winter

Games operated with a mission: to provide a memorable athletic, social and educational experience for the athletes, families, volunteers and sponsors.

With what they have planned, that mission will no doubt be accomplished.

At this writing, the athletes – 2,700 from 80 nations – were preparing to leave for Alaska. Most had never been to America, let alone its northernmost state. Yet, no matter how much their coaches



Based on the itinerary, the Games Organizing Committee has made sure that the athletes, if they choose, will have many experiences and little time for sleep. There's Special Olympics Town – a fun-

filled, 40,000-square-foot venue featuring interactive activities such as craft-making, karaoke, stage performances every night, flight simulators, free Internet access, real life astronauts and much more. They call it a town because it's too big to call Olympic Village. They could have named it Special Olympics City.

And there's the competition. Nordic Skiing is at Kincaid Park – a former air defense missile complex with nearly 100 miles of marked trails and 1,500 acres of scenic wilderness. Alpine Skiing is at the famed Alyeska Resort – a world-class resort with nine lifts, a 60-passenger aerial tram and 560 inches of snow annually. The Tesoro sports center, with two National Hockey League-sized rinks, provides a world class venue for the figure skaters.

Not long after they arrived at the games, athletes and other Team New York delegates began filing reports by cell phone and e-mail, commenting on Alaska's rugged beauty and sending in results to anxious friends back home. Avalanches postponed



Team New York

Alpine Skiing for two hours one morning.

The 15- and 16-hour days only seem to be taking a toll on the coaches," said Director of Competition Peter A. Lawrence, head of delegation for Team New York. "The athletes' enthusiasm seems to be enough to keep us all going. ■



Mount McKinley is the highest peak in North America and provides a spectacular view for Anchorage visitors.

had told them about the pristine and rugged countryside, or no matter how many hours they spent on the Internet, nothing was going to prepare them for that first breath of Alaskan air and the fun they were about to encounter.

Among the delegation are seven athletes and three coaches from Special Olympics New York, including Mike Rynish of Albany, who was selected as the Nordic head coach for the Mid-Atlantic Region.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for the athletes to experience a new culture and see the beautiful landscape," Rynish said.



Team New York had the opportunity to see the start of the famous Iditarod Dog Sled Race.

Did You Know? Did You Know that Anchorage ...

- * Has 5.5 hours of daily daylight in mid-winter and 19.5 hours in mid-summer?
- * Has 15 highways, three of which are only open between April and October?
- * Averages 70 inches of snow each year, only slightly more than Albany (62 inches), but far less than Syracuse (110 inches)?
- * Has no penguins?

Did You Know that Alaska ...

- * Became the 49th state on Jan. 3, 1959?
- * Had a high temperature of 100 degrees recorded at Fort Yukon in 1915 and a record low temperature of minus 80 at Prospect Creek Camp in 1971?
- * Ranks fifth among the top-10 destinations for "fantasy vacations" and second among U.S. destinations?

Sources: Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, New York Times and Alaska Department of Labor.

Ætna

cingular
WIRELESS

wysut

Beautiful Weather and Great Venues Made the 2001 Winter Games One to Remember



World Games teammates Alicia Zeitz, Tray Greene and Kim Kinsey enjoy Opening Ceremonies.



The Floor Hockey competition at the Oncenter was fierce.

Smiles stretched the faces of Gloria Simpson and Brian Phillips as they carried the Flame of Hope down the center aisle at the Oncenter. Teeming applause greeted them from the hundreds of athletes, coaches and spectators as a dinning rendition of the theme from Rocky played.

With the volume rising, Simpson and Phillips held the torch high and paused before bending it slowly and lighting the Olympic Cauldron to start the festivities.

And so began the Special Olympics New York Winter Games in Syracuse – a weekend packed with competition and celebration.

“My heart was beating fast,” said Phillips, of Area 16. “It felt great.”

He and Simpson were two of 850 athletes and coaches who participated in the Winter Games, which included six sports: Floor Hockey and Floor Hockey Skills, Figure and Speed Skating, and Nordic and Alpine Skiing.

Official sponsors included Cingular Wireless, Clear Channel Communications, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., P&C Foods and Time Warner – Syracuse Division. Sen. John DeFrancisco, R-Syracuse, was instrumental in securing a \$10,000 NYS tourism grant for the games.

This was the first time Syracuse has hosted a Special Olympics Winter Games. In 1993 and 1994, the Summer Games were held there. Next year’s Winter Games will be Feb. 22 to 24, 2002. ■



Sunnycrest Rink hosted Figure Skating and Speed Skating competitions.



The conditions at Toggenburg Mountain were perfect for the Nordic and Alpine skiers.



Thanks to Cingular Wireless athletes called home for free from the Olympic Village.



Alpine skiers raced down the mountain towards the sound of cheering fans and teammates.

Photos: Special Olympics New York Staff

Off to Buffalo

Continued from p.1

family, the upcoming Special Olympics Summer Games. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to help host the thousands of athletes and families who will be coming to Western New York," said Mr. Rich. "Special Olympics has a long history of helping families and we're excited to be partnering with them to bring these athletes together to enjoy the spirit of competition and achievement. We encourage our entire community to rally around this effort."

Sheriff Patrick Gallivan and his wife, Mary Pat Gallivan, have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the Summer Games and will oversee a Local Organizing Committee made up of community leaders, long-time volunteers, members of the law enforcement community and Special Olympics staff.

Based at the University of Buffalo in Amherst, the games will be held June 14 to 17, 2001 and June 13 to 16, 2002.

We encourage our entire community to rally around this effort.

**-- Robert Rich, Jr
Honorary Co-Chair**

UB will be the site of Basketball, Powerlifting, Track & Field, Tennis and Aquatics, as well as the site of Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Roller Skating and Gymnastics will take place at the Amherst Pepsi Center. Transit Bowling will host the



Staff Photo

Attending the news conference were, from left, Sheriff Patrick Gallivan, Erie County Executive Joel Giambra, Mary Pat Gallivan, Buffalo Mayor Anthony Masiello, Special Olympics athlete David McInnis, Robert Rich, Jr., Mindy Rich, Neal J. Johnson and Danny Wegman.

Bowling competition. Other venues will be announced at a later date.

"It is a thrill for us to bring the games back to the western part of the state," said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. "The residents, businesses and leaders of the community have always supported our mission, which has enabled us to provide a quality competitive experience for our athletes."

Special Olympics New York last held a statewide competition in Buffalo in 1996 and 1997, when the city hosted the Winter Games. Summer Games were last held in Buffalo in 1987 and 1988.

For information about the games, visit www.specialolympicsnewyork.org or call 800-836-6976.

To become a sponsor of the 2001 and 2002 Summer Games, please call Audra Herman at 212-661-5217. ■

Face-Off

The New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls hosted a sectional hockey tournament in February. Nearly 250 athletes and coaches participated, including 11 teams from Sections 3, 4 and 5, which encompasses all of Upstate New York north and west of Ulster County.

The Seneca Falls event is one of three Floor Hockey sectionals held each year across the state and serves as the major state Winter Games qualifier for Floor Hockey athletes. Overall, Special Olympics New York organizes more than two dozen sectional competitions annually.

For more details about the 2001 sectional sports schedule, call Sectional Sports Director Erin Griffiths, 518-388-0791.



Staff Photo

Around the State



Dutchess County, Area 7

Marist College will host the Special Olympics Invitational Basketball Tournament March 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the McCann Center.

Fulton/Hamilton/Montgomery Counties, Area 9

Area 9 held its inaugural walk-a-thon on Nov. 4, 2000. The length of the walk was approximately 2.8 miles. Nearly \$1,000 was raised. Athlete Rusty Lewis raised \$300 of that himself.

Oneida/Herkimer Counties, Area 12

The annual Oneida/Herkimer Counties Golf Tournament will be held June 3 at the Hidden Valley Golf Course. Pre registration is a must, so contact Sheila Knapp at 315-853-2871.

The annual Area 12 Special Olympics Spring Games will be held May 12 at Rome Free Academy. For information, contact Al Jones at 315-336-0614.

Oswego County, Area 29

The annual Softball in the Snow event, sponsored by Cam's New York Pizzeria was held on Feb. 17 at the Leighton Elementary School. There was a \$10 donation to participate and all proceeds benefited Area 29 Special Olympics training, equipment and travel expenses.

Brooklyn, Area 30

Special Olympics Brooklyn will hold its 15th annual fund-raiser brunch on Saturday, March 24 at Buckley's restaurant in Brooklyn. For more information, call Ruby Gary at 212-661-3963.

Manhattan, Area 33

On Sat. March 31, from 8:30 p.m. to close, the Typhoon Brewery located at 22 E. 54th Street New York will donate a percentage of the beverage receipts from the night to Special Olympics New York - Manhattan.

Staten Island, Area 35

Six Track & Field athletes from Staten Island participated in a demonstration race at the Colgate Women's Games at Madison Square Garden in February. The athletes ran a 55-meter dash in front of 8,000 roaring track fans. Amanda Wilkinson edged out Debbie Ellis by .41, reaching the finish line in 10.26. Finishing close behind were Kristin Koenig, Mary Pannese, Kelly Spencer and Elizabeth Habbeb.

Special Olympics: No Place for Poor Sports

After more than three decades, sportsmanship remains at the mission's core.

The score of any athletic event is forgotten over time, but the actions of the players, coaches and spectators are remembered.

While Special Olympics has long been recognized for the sportsmanship displayed during competition and for the respect the athletes demonstrate toward their opponents, it has become an increasing challenge to teach athletes that what they see on nightly sports shows is not acceptable in Special Olympics.

In other words, if you want to thump your chest and wag your finger in an opponents' face or pose for the camera after you hit a jump shot, do it somewhere else.

"True sportsmanship allows athletes to demonstrate their skills without feeling intimidated or ridiculed," said Walter Kopczuk, Special Olympics New York's vice president, Program. "The officials have no tolerance for trash talking or taunting among the athletes in competition."



The color of the medal isn't the most important thing.

That doesn't mean that Special Olympics athletes aren't being negatively affected by their professional counterparts. Unsportsmanlike images in the media are hard to escape. They appear in the daily sports pages and they are shown without shame on nightly sports shows. Even when television producers have time to select a tasteful visual, they opt for the distasteful, like the video of an American Olympic swimmer repeatedly kissing his biceps before a race in Sydney last summer.

Special Olympics has a system in place to curb poor sportsmanship before it becomes pervasive. To become a coach,



Speed skater helps a competitor to her feet.

Staff Photo

volunteers must go through a certification process, part of which includes a training session where sportsmanship is addressed. Most coaches make proper behavior a priority.

"As a coach, I follow certain standards, said Area 38 basketball Coach Dennis Dalby. "Each player must play at least one quarter and it's mandatory to shake hands after the game."

Because of the influence they have on athletes, coaches themselves must be civil during competitions. Though shouting at referees or opponents is not prohibited, shouting praise is encouraged.

In addition, inappropriate behavior by the athletes, coaches or spectators, such as taunting, is immediately discouraged.

"One of the objectives of Special Olympics is to provide our athletes a safe haven to learn and demonstrate their skills," Kopczuk said. "It's simply not fair if they come to practice or a competition and worry about being treated in a hostile way. So we don't stand for it."

In more than 30 years of Special Olympics training and competition in the United States, sportsmanship has become part of the fiber. Poor sportsmanship is not a problem, yet.

"That's why we keep such a close watch on our coaches and athletes. And that's why we stress the importance of tolerance and respect for one's opponent," Kopczuk said. "It's the Special Olympics way."

DIALAMERICA MARKETING, INC. supports



Join the thousands of New Yorkers who are choosing DialAmerica for their magazines. Call 1-800-526-4679 and mention Special Olympics New York to order your favorite magazine. 12.5 percent of each paid subscription is donated to Special Olympics New York.

Spotlight Shines Bright on SO New York Athletes

World Games skaters and Staten Island basketball team demonstrate their skills in two of New York state's largest venues.

Stepping onto the ice or the court for competition can be nerve-racking enough, but for a few Special Olympics New York athletes, they were also faced with packed houses.

World Games athletes Nick Zmuda and Alicia Zeitz had the opportunity to skate during the first intermission of a Buffalo Sabres game on Feb. 17.

The Sabres were playing the Devils at the sold-out HSBC Arena. Zmuda and Zeitz were nervous prior to taking the ice but their excitement beat out the nerves.

"This is so cool," Zmuda said before stepping out onto the ice.

"We've never skated in front of so many people before," said Zeitz.

But the nerves didn't show during their pairs performance. They fought through choppy ice and gave a spectacular performance that was rewarded with a

standing ovation.

Back in New York City, Special Olympics New York - Staten Island's basketball team had a similar experience as they competed at the world's most famous arena -- Madison Square Garden.

The game was arranged by Just Balls, a sports equipment manufacturer and Special Olympics sponsor.

There was a large crowd at the Garden because it was the opening night of the Big East Tournament. The exhibition game took place during halftime.

The Staten Island team faced some tough competition from their Special Olympics New Jersey opponents, but were able to pull out the win.

The crowd was amazed at the ability of both teams. There were "oohs" and "aahs"

as if the Knicks had taken the court. The team coaches were pacing up and down the sideline and shouting to their players, much like Jeff Van Gundy does in the exact same spot.

The crowds again gave a standing ovation. And the cheering didn't stop until the teams had disappeared into the tunnel.

The athletes knew they were experiencing something incredible as they performed in these arenas. And with their true athletic talent, they gave sports fans a lesson on what Special Olympics is all about. ■



Nick Zmuda and Alicia Zeitz take a moment before taking the ice at the HSBC Arena in Buffalo

Staff Photo



Athletes from Staten Island and New Jersey face-off at a demonstration game at Madison Square Garden.

Staff Photo

Letters

Dear Special Olympics,

I wanted to write a quick note to commend the Special Olympics. I am a special education teacher. I have taught 5th - 8th grade students for the past six years. I worked with one particular student, Matthew Summerfield, during the years of 1997-2000. He started competing in Special Olympics during the 1999-2000 school year.

I watched Matthew transform from a boy who needed to have continual guidance to a confident young man. He became much more

independent and his self-esteem soared. Special Olympics gave Matthew a real sense of achievement.

I believe Special Olympics is a wonderful place for both children and adults with varying special needs to prove their strengths. It allows them to grow as individuals and for their friends and families to see them meet success. It is an excellent opportunity for all involved.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Elizabeth Cwiakala

Submit letters to Doreen Hand, Special Olympics New York., 211 East 43rd Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017, e-mail: dhand@nyso.org.

In The Next Issue of Triumph

World Games Results

Healthy Athletes Update

Scenes from the 2001 Golf Challenge

Million Dollar Duck Race Planned



Special Olympics

New York

504 Balltown Road
Schenectady, NY 12304

www.specialolympicsnewyork.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
NEW YORK

Comments, story suggestions
can be directed to:

Special Olympics New York, Inc.
Public Relations Department,
504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304,
or by fax to 518-388-0795,
or by e-mail to dhand@nyso.org.



Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation

Special Olympics New York, Inc. is Authorized and Accredited by Special Olympics International for the Benefit of Citizens with Mental Retardation.

Polar Bears Make Splash for Special Olympics

“Oh my God!” becomes a common refrain.



Staff Photo

A pool was carved into the ice of Lake Ontario where more than 150 took the plunge for Special Olympics New York.

The first of two Polar Plunges took place Feb. 11 in Rochester, with 150 hardy souls braving the 38-degree water of Lake Ontario, all to benefit the athletes of Special Olympics New York.

There must be a better way to raise money, right?

Actually, not really. This inaugural plunge, which organizers have committed to making an annual event, netted \$11,000.

Plungers took pledges from friends, co-workers and family members. “We were thrilled with the success of this plunge and we have a lot of ideas to improve it next year and for years to come,” said Rita Cox, director of development for Special Olympics New York.

Polar Plunges are part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run – a year-round fund-raising effort organized and maintained by members of law enforcement around the state. The Rochester plunge, one of two that Special Olympics benefits from in New York, was organized by Sgt. Sal Gerbino of the Gates (Monroe County) Police Department, Tony Stirpe of the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department and their law enforcement colleagues in Central and Western New York. It was part of the annual Charlotte Winter Fest.

“The commitment that we get from police and correctional officers around the state is really inspiring,” Cox said. “I can’t thank them enough for the devotion they show to the athletes.”

A second plunge, organized by Town of Poughkeepsie Police Officer Chris Hamel, is planned for March 17 at Lake Mariah in Fishkill, Dutchess County. ■

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