

Press Release
June 20, 2014

Special Olympics
Colorado



Two Gold Medals, Two Silvers for Team Colorado at 2014 USA Games

NEW JERSEY – Team Colorado, representing Special Olympics Colorado at the Special Olympics USA Games this week in New Jersey, has earned Gold Medals in Basketball (under 22-year-olds division) and Unified Softball (open division), and Silver Medals in Volleyball (open division) and Flag Football (open division). The weeklong events started on Sunday, June 14 with Opening Ceremonies at the Prudential Center, home of the New Jersey Devils (NHL) and concludes with Closing Ceremonies later today.

The unified softball team (DDRC – Developmental Disabilities Resource Center in Lakewood) was comprised of athletes with disabilities and without disabilities, ranging in age from 15 years old to 53 years old. Team Colorado's other qualifying teams came from around the state. The basketball team was comprised of high school aged (all male) Special Olympics athletes who compete during the school year for the Overland High School Special Olympics Unified team in the Cherry Creek School District.

The flag football team (Pueblo) and volleyball team (Colorado Springs) are co-ed adult teams competing in community-based Special Olympics programs.

All four teams were initially entered into a pool for selection to compete at USA Games by earning Gold at their respective Special Olympics Colorado state games in 2013. Special Olympics Colorado holds state games (state championships) every year for 22 sports. The USA Games and World Games (to be held in Los Angeles, July 2015) exist in Special Olympics for the same reasons as they do for any other athlete: to provide athletes of all ability levels the opportunity to compete at an advance level; to test those abilities against the best in the world in their sport of choice; and to showcase and celebrate the universal power and joy of sport.

For bios, rosters and information about Team Colorado, visit:

<http://specialolympicsco.org/about-soco/world-and-national-games/team-colorado-2014/>

Photos are available for your use at:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152216955837568.1073741847.51464102567&type=1>

About Special Olympics Colorado

Special Olympics Colorado provides year-round training and competition in 22 sports for more than 14,200 athletes living in the state of Colorado. With the support of more than 6,600 volunteers and the generosity of Colorado citizens, corporations and local businesses, Special Olympics Colorado is able to offer more than 100 events annually to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Participation with other athletes, Unified partners (typically developing peers), coaches, sponsors and volunteers builds confidence and creates opportunities to participate as productive and respected members of society by increasing public awareness of the athletes' capabilities. For more information, visit **SpecialOlympicsCO.org**.

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