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**Special Olympics Texas Athletes Travel to China for
World Games This Month**

DFW Area Athletes to Join Team USA for International Competition

DALLAS – Twenty-eight athletes from the Greater Dallas-Fort Worth area are about to embark on an international adventure – competing at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, the People’s Republic of China. In all, 60 Special Olympics Texas athletes will represent the state as part of Team USA.

On September 26, the Texas athletes will depart for Los Angeles. There, they will join with the other Team USA members and on September 27, the athletes will leave Los Angeles for China. The World Games competition will be held **October 2-11**. This Games is the largest international sporting event to happen in 2007, bringing together nearly 7,500 athletes from 160 countries with support from tens of thousands of volunteers, family members and spectators. **The athletes will return home to Texas on October 12.**

The following athletes from the Greater Dallas-Fort Worth area will attend (*athlete bios available in the enclosed Media Guide*):

NAME	SPORT	HOMETOWN
Myles Barman	Bowling	Plano
Kari Bentley	Volleyball	Arlington
Madeline Braley	Gymnastics	Plano
Tim Braun	Golf	Highland Village
Allison Brooks	Volleyball	Arlington
Amanda Brookshire	Gymnastics	Melissa
Mark Cannon	Athletics	Ponder
Brice Cleary	Volleyball	Mansfield
Jessica Clopp	Gymnastics	Pollok

(MORE)

Kevin Collins	Volleyball	Venus
Steve Comen (Unified Partner)	Sailing	Plano
Chris Curtis	Volleyball	Arlington
Houstin Gardiner	Gymnastics	North Richland Hills
Raymee Haas	Volleyball	Arlington
Billy Hansbury	Tennis	Denton
Zach Hericks	Volleyball	Arlington
Paul Holland	Athletics	Shady Shores
Kendrick Lawrence	Sailing	Duncanville
Brittany Manworren	Gymnastics	Plano
James Martinez	Volleyball	Fort Worth
Tom Miller	Volleyball	Arlington
Texas Nelson, Jr.	Aquatics	Denton
Schelly Porter	Bowling	Commerce
Katie Shepherd	Gymnastics	Greenville
Marty Smith (Unified Partner)	Golf	Richardson
Ross Steele	Volleyball	Arlington
James Taylor	Equestrian	Rowlett
Shannon Wilkinson	Golf	Murphy

Updates and results on the Texas athletes will be available online at www.specialolympicstexas.org.

About Special Olympics Texas

Special Olympics Texas is a privately funded non-profit organization, providing year-round sports training and athletic competition for 25,841 children and adults with intellectual disabilities [mental retardation] in the Lone Star State. For more information, visit www.specialolympicstexas.org or call 800.876.JOIN.

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