



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 7, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Kelly Coffey – Vice President of Communications, Special Olympics Texas
512.491.2928; 512.740.5245 (cell-media only); kcoffey@sotx.org

Andi Baca Kelly – Public Relations Coordinator, Special Olympics Texas
512.491.2959; 512.674.5483 (cell-media only); akelly@sotx.org

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

Round Rock Athletes to Join Team USA for International Competition

AUSTIN- Best friends, J.R. Hernandez and Jordan Svehlak, are about to embark on an international adventure – competing at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games in Shanghai, the People’s Republic of China. Texas is proud to send 60 athletes to compete in World Games as part of Team USA.

Hernandez and Svehlak, both of Round Rock, will join other Texas athletes departing for Los Angeles on September 26. There, they will join with the rest of Team USA, 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 to Texas on October 13.**

J.R. Hernandez, who will compete in powerlifting, loves to get involved in all aspects of Special Olympics. He competes in powerlifting, bowling, basketball, athletics, softball and soccer. Hernandez competed in the 2006 National Games; his 4x100 relay team earned a silver medal and he brought home a bronze for shot put. A big supporter of Special Olympics, he is a Global Messenger. He was named Most Improved Athlete of the Year in 2005 and he earned his high school letter jacket through Special Olympics.

There are very few sports that Jordan Svehlak doesn’t participate in. He will compete in powerlifting at the World Games; he also competes in athletics, golf and basketball. Svehlak was named Most Improved Athlete of the Year in 2004, Athlete of the Year in 2005 and he is a Global Messenger. Svehlak also joined a group of athletes who did community work through the Buddy Walk to promote Special Olympics. A 2006 graduate of Stony Point High School, he earned his high school letter jacket and won the Tigers on Track Award from his high school in 2005.

(MORE)

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 1.800.876.JOIN.

Presenting Sponsor: T. Boone Pickens Foundation

Co-Sponsors: Coca-Cola Bottling Companies of Texas, GMAC Financial Services and H-E-B

Supporting Sponsors: CVS/pharmacy, Essilor of America and Mister Car Wash

###