

# SPORTSLINE

Spring Issue 2006



## OPENING DAY FOR MASD'S MOST POPULAR SPORT ARTICLE PROVIDED BY MAJORS HEAD COACH, SCOTT WILSON

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Another great opening day ceremonies for MASD Baseball were celebrated again on February 18<sup>th</sup> at Quail Run Park. In our 17<sup>th</sup> year of organized baseball, the MASD league consist again of 4 minors teams and 4 majors teams.



The festivities started by thanking the 16 gracious team sponsors for their continued financial support. Several Special Education Teachers were introduced with their Student/ Players and were presented signed baseballs by the Athletes. Then the Red Mountain ROTC Armed Drill Team performed for us along with their Colour Guard instructed by Lt. Col. Dave Lynch. We were very fortunate to have a special friend throw out the first pitch this year, Detective Jason Schecterly with the Phoenix Police Department Homicide Unit.

Our celebrations wouldn't be complete without another great potluck and hot dog cookout performed by another fantastic sponsor, Empire Caterpillar Employee Community Outreach Group who voluteered their Saturday to cook and serve for our Athletes, Coaches, Parents and Friends. We are looking forward to another great season which lasts through the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. Come out to join us, we are always looking for new Players throughout the season.



### MASD Mission Statement:

"Recognizing the importance of recreational, leisure and competitive opportunities that contribute to the quality of life, the primary mission of the Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled is to provide a variety of programs and activities to individuals with disabilities. Toward this end, the Association will work to educate, inform and include the community in a comprehensive effort to provide year round activities. Through participation, the athlete will realize individual accomplishment, self-esteem, respect for themselves and others."

**MASD Motto: "Let No One Sit On The Sidelines"**

### Mesa Adaptive Sports Program Partners:



**Parks & Recreation**

# MESA

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## WHAT'S ON THE CALENDAR FOR 2006???

National Disability Blaze Sports Conference in Athens, Georgia — March 10-13  
Winter Paralympic Games in Torino, Italy — March 10-19  
Mesa Public Schools Spring Break—No Programs  
Arizona Special Olympics Basketball and Cheer Competition — March 24-25  
East Valley Special Olympics Tennis Tournament at Chandler Tennis Center—  
March 28  
Desert Challenge Air Pistol and Rifle Competition — April 1  
East Valley Special Olympics Track and Field Competition at Mesa High School—April 21  
East Valley Special Olympics Gymnastics Competition in Tempe—April 22  
Desert Challenge Regional Games — April 28-30  
Arizona Special Olympics Gymnastics, Tennis and Track & Field Competition — May 5-7  
Day on the Lake — May 4-6  
Fashion Show at the Chandler Center for the Arts — May 13  
MASD Baseball Awards Ceremony at BRC—May 20  
Power Soccer Nationals in Birmingham, Alabama—May 31-June 3  
Registration Materials for summer/spring sent out—Week of June 19th  
Special Olympics USA National Games in Ames, Iowa—June 24-July 9  
US Paralympic Track and Field Championships in Atlanta, GA—June 30-July 2  
Junior National Disabled Sports Championships (location TBD) — July 23-29  
Summer Programs Begin—Mid July



***Interested in Volunteering with the Mesa Adaptive Sports and Recreation Programs???***  
***Contact the City of Mesa Volunteer Coordinator, Jordan Heller,***  
***at [jordan.heller@cityofmesa.org](mailto:jordan.heller@cityofmesa.org) OR call 480-644-3654.***

### **MESA WELCOMES NEW COACHES THIS YEAR!**

**Bill Cummings**  
**Christine Collom**  
**Faith Nichols**  
**Jacob Romanowski**



### **THANK YOU FOR ADDING TO OUR PROGRAMS!**

**Tasha Judie**  
**Teresita Krenytzky**  
**Theresa Rinas**  
**Troy Davis**

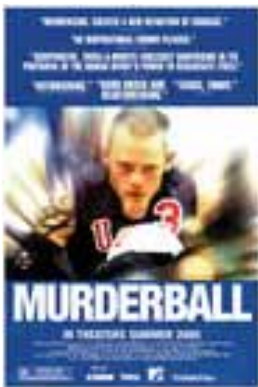
### **TEAM MOM / DAD / PROVIDER**

Responsibilities may vary sport to sport. Please check with the coaches or Susan Byrne to see how your time and energy can be best utilized during the sport season. Your responsibilities would last the entire season unless otherwise arranged.

—Bring water and/or snacks to practice and competitions for the athletes.  
—Wash and distribute uniforms and pennies  
—Assist with equipment

—Assist with check-in of athletes  
—Take organized and action photography  
—Umpire or play in a scrimmage game  
—Plan an end of the season party

**ARTICLES IN THE MASD NEWSLETTER ARE PROVIDED BY CITY OF MESA ADAPTIVE SPORTS EMPLOYEES, SUSAN BYRNE AND REBEKAH DANNENBERG, EAST VALLEY SPECIAL OLYMPICS EMPLOYEE JIM RUDOW AND MASD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LANE JEPPESEN.**



## MURDERBALL NOMINATED FOR ACADEMY AWARD

A film about quadriplegics who play full-contact rugby in Mad Max-style wheelchairs - overcoming unimaginable obstacles to compete in the Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece. Purchase this documentary at [www.quadrugby.com](http://www.quadrugby.com) or rent it at Blockbuster.

### “BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT” RELEASED ON DVD

Brave in the Attempt is a feature length documentary which follows a Special Olympics Basketball team in their pursuit of a gold medal. Often humorous and poignant, these athletes for the first time have a chance to share their world and diverse stories. For more information about the movie visit the web site: [www.braveintheattempt.com](http://www.braveintheattempt.com) OR write to: KL Entertainment; PO Box 2634, Guasti, CA 91743.



### “Shark Out of Water”

By Julie Halapchuk

The recently published juvenile fiction book “A Shark Out of Water” offers up a heartwarming story that highlights how children with physical challenges can be a productive part of their schools and an inspiration to their able-bodied classmates. It is also the first fictional children’s book to focus on sled hockey, a sport growing in popularity and now recognized in the U.S. Paralympic Games.

In the book, main character Sammy is moving to a different town, starting sixth grade at a new school and constantly arguing with his annoying older sister, Stacy. Could life for Sammy be any more stressful? Sure, if you add in the fact that he also has Spina Bifida. Sammy isn’t your typical kid, but after making a few good friends and joining the Springdale Sharks sled hockey team, everyone gets a chance to see how amazing he can be.

A Shark Out of Water highlights the love/hate relationship between siblings and touches on a subject that isn’t always easy to discuss—what can happen when you’re a little bit different? Here’s how you can buy the book...

Any book store will order the book or find it on the following web sites: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com), [www.borders.com](http://www.borders.com), [www.target.com](http://www.target.com), [www.booksamillion.com](http://www.booksamillion.com). You can contact the author, Julie Halapchuk at 724-274-0748 or [halapchuk7@cs.com](mailto:halapchuk7@cs.com).

**CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETES AND COACHES TO A SUCCESSFUL START TO THE 2006 WINTER AND SPRING SEASON. SUMMER PROGRAM INFORMATION WILL BE SENT OUT IN JUNE FOR THE FOLLOWING SPORTS:**

**Special Olympic Aquatics, Bocce, Golf and Soccer  
Physically Challenged Basketball, Bowling, Goalball and Power Soccer**

### Mesa Holiday Bowling Tournament

The Physically Challenged Holiday Bowling Tournament took place on Saturday, December 17th at AMF—Southern and Gilbert. A total of nineteen athletes participated...eleven athletes from the “Arizona Suns” bowling team in Tucson, six MASD “Arizona Heat” athletes and three independent bowlers, the “Quadzilla’s”.



Athletes received a first, second or third place trophy determined by their average of two games. Involved were athletes that use a power or manual chair as well as athletes that are ambulatory. The AMF Lanes kindly donated the games, several pizzas and unlimited drinks for the event. Parents brought in home baked goodies. It was a great celebration! Thanks to all of those involved! The bowling season will pick back up this summer.

**Thank you to AMF Lanes for hosting the Holiday Bowling Tournament and providing the athletes with food and beverages during the event!**

## PARENT COMMITTEE SPORT REPRESENTATIVE

Your responsibilities would last a calendar year from July through June.

- Be an active voice at monthly parent club meetings
- Communicate issues to the group and Susan Byrne regarding the sport you are representing
- Be a part of making changes happen by taking a part in planning and evaluating programs and events
- Communicate discussions and opportunities back to families involved in the sport you are representing

### Fun In The Pines of Payson

Don't miss the First Annual Spinal Cord Injury Retreat! Including 3 nights and 2 days of full-filled activities. A great retreat in the beautiful mountains of Arizona. Meet new friends, enjoy games and activities and just get away for a while. For more information call the Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association at 602-239-5929. When: May 18—21, 2006

Where: Whispering Hope Ranch, near Payson, AZ

Cost: \$75.00 Includes accessible rooms and showers, meals, entertainment, recreation and transportation!

### Protecting Your Smile

By Tina Larcey

Athletic Mouth Protectors or Mouth Guards hold top priority as sports equipment. They protect not just the teeth but the lips, cheek and tongue. Increasingly, organized sports are requiring mouth guards to prevent injury to athletes. Research shows that most oral injuries occur when athletes are not wearing mouth protection.

Mouth guards are made of soft plastic and adapted to fit comfortably to the shape of the upper teeth. They should be worn whenever an athlete is in an activity with a risk of falls or head contact with other players or equipment. We usually think of football and hockey as the most dangerous to the teeth, but nearly half of all sports-related mouth injuries occur in basketball and baseball.

Any mouth guard works better than no mouth guard. To insure compliance with wearing it, choose a mouth guard that the athlete can wear comfortably. First, pre-formed or boil to fit mouth guards are found in sports stores. Different types vary in terms of comfort, protection, and cost. Second, customized mouth guards are provided through your dentist. They cost a bit more, but are more comfortable and more effective in preventing injuries. Ask your dentist, he or she can advice you on what type of mouth guard is best. After all, your smile is worth it!



### SAVE THE DATE:

**The 13th Annual Fall Fundraiser hosted by MASD will be held on Saturday, October 7th, 2006 at the Phoenix Marriott Mesa located at 200 North Centennial Way in Mesa.**

**Add your name to the invite list by sending an email to Lane Jeppesen at [lane@mesadisabledsports.com](mailto:lane@mesadisabledsports.com) with your full name, address and phone number.**

### DAY ON THE LAKE Scheduled for June 2nd and 3rd, 2006

Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Day on the Lake at Bartlett Lake Marina on Friday June 2 and Saturday June 3rd from 8:30-2:30 for adapted water skiing, jet skiing, fishing and kayaking. The cost is \$20.00. Please call the Recreation Therapy Department at the Barrow Rehab at 602-406-3606 if you have questions.

**DOES YOUR FAMILY NEED A COMPUTER??? MASD HAS DONATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS TO SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY. CONTACT LANE JEPPESEN AT 480-835-MASD.**

## 1st Competition for Junior Wheelchair Suns

On Saturday, December 10th, the Junior Suns Wheelchair Basketball Team had their first EVER competition at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Eight athletes demonstrated skill and excellent knowledge of the game as they played on 10 foot baskets. They were able to shoot, score and WIN the game. The team is anxious to get more competition under their belt in the near future. The next opportunity will be at the Desert Challenge Games in April and a future trip to Las Vegas. The team practices on Monday nights during the school year at Webster Gymnasium, 202 North Sycamore Road from 6:30-8:00 PM. Congratulations Jr. Suns



## Phoenix Heat Quad Rugby Team Undefeated in Season

By Phoenix Heat Athlete, Andy Cohn



The 2006 Heat Rave hosted by Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled (MASD) held Feb. 17-19, saw a talented six-team field delight the biggest rugby crowds Arizona has ever seen.

The round-robin schedule provided one of the best match-ups early in the action as the second-seeded Canadian national team faced the third-ranked Texas Stampede. In three previous meetings this season the Canadians held a 2-1 victory margin that Texas hoped to even out. The close game required overtime before Canada sneaked out a 33-32 win.

Day one ended with the first “upset” as the sixth-seeded Quake from San Jose downed Denver 37-33. The win seemed to be a statement that the Quake would be a force but it proved to be there only win of the weekend.

Day two went as expected without any close games—that is until the last one—as the top-seeded and host Phoenix Heat struggled with the Stampede. The spectators filling the bleachers were treated to one of the best games of the year as Texas led nearly the entire game. Tied at 32 with only a minute remaining, the absurd wave of turnovers crashed as



Texas called a timeout it didn't have. Seconds later, Phoenix gave the ball back when a Heat player was called for ten seconds in the key even though his chair was stuck to a Texas player so badly that the equipment guys had to come on the court and separate them after the whistle. The ensuing inbound bounced off a Texas player's hand right to Brent Poppen of Phoenix who eventually made a remarkable pass to tournament MVP Shinichi Shimakawa with only a second remaining for the win. Neither team substituted the entire game and left both the players and crowd exhausted.

The Portland Pounders got their first win on the final day shaking down the Quake 46-36. Texas took care of Colorado 39-27 for third place setting up the showdown for first. Canada was trying to stay undefeated throughout the weekend but Phoenix was trying to stay undefeated throughout the entire year.

Another capacity crowd saw Phoenix fall behind early but the deficit quickly disappeared. The Heat soon took the lead and manufactured a methodical victory 35-33 to secure its first ever undefeated regular season.

Thanks so much to all the awesome sponsors—MASD, St. Joe's Hospital and Leeden Wheelchair—to name a few but definitely not all. Thank you to all of the volunteers who enable us players to enjoy this sport so much.



## Good-Bye to a Dear Friend



MASD would like to take this opportunity to remember one of the organization's founders and long-time friends, Frank H. Rusk. Frank passed away on December 26th, 2005, after a battle with a brain tumor. MASD recently hosted a ceremony to honor Rusk, who served as treasurer of the well-respected group from its inception in 1989 until 2003. The activity room at the MASD facility, the Broadway Recreation Center, has been renamed the Frank H. Rusk Activity Room. A long-time supporter of activities for the disabled, Rusk began his involvement with children in Special Olympics with his then-8-year-old daughter, Beth, in 1977. Frank and the Rusk Family have been very active members with MASD and he will be missed.

## Mesa Adaptive Golf Clinic Proves There are No Boundaries to Playing Golf



Mesa hosted the inaugural BlazeSport Adaptive Golf Clinic on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. thru 3 p.m. The Mesa Golf Center at 3252 E. McKellips donated range balls and access to a large area of the driving range for the "open house" style clinic. Over forty-five athletes with a permanent physical disability, ages 6 and older, tried adaptive equipment and gained knowledge from experienced instructors throughout the day. Instructors and supporters included:

Tom Richey and Patrick Byrne, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago  
Steve Winter, KidSwing and Paragolfer  
Anthony Netto, KidSwing International  
Ron Terrell, Golfsmith  
Peter Longo, Golf Entertainer, former PGA Tour Player, author  
Don Bigler, Western Amputee Golf Association  
Bill Harding, 1<sup>st</sup> Swing  
Jan Roberts, LPGA  
Tom Schroeder, Try it Once  
Don Hill, Mesa Golf Center



Men and women, young and old came out to enjoy the sunny Saturday afternoon. The range of disabilities that existed in athletes included spinal cord injuries and amputations to head injuries and visual impairments. Our goal to gather the community together and provide education and resources on the accessibility of the sport of golf was achieved. The sport is popular year-round in the state of Arizona and a great way to be active with friends and family. Participants mentioned: "I appreciate still being able to hit a golf ball," "I am excited to find another way to remain active" and "I want to support any effort that will get me back on the course someday."

For further information on golf for individuals with physical disabilities, please visit United States Golf Association (USGA) at [www.resourcecenter.usga.org](http://www.resourcecenter.usga.org).

## Gold League Hosts Fierce Competition

The official kick-off of the Gold League was on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at Webster Gym and continued the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup>. League play included competition between Chandler Pride, Chandler Claws, Tempe Lions, Tempe Tigers, Scottsdale Recreation Bobcats, Scottsdale Schools Eagles, Scottsdale Schools Dons. Mesa has three teams playing in the league for a total of 10 teams.



## FREE ADVERTISEMENT!

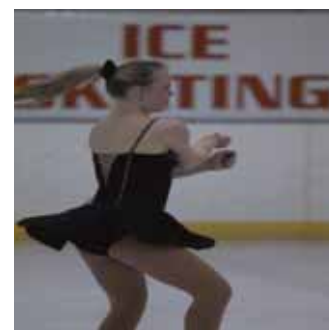
**MASD is opening their newsletter to the public.**

**If you are a business looking to advertise to the disabled population, you can place a business card sized advertisement in the designated page of this newsletter for FREE! Families looking to get rid of mobility equipment or in need of a caretaker for their son or daughter can place a personal advertisement in the newsletter. Use the MASD newsletter as a communication device to other parents, caretakers and professionals providing services to people with disabilities. Place your FREE advertisement by contacting Lane Jeppesen at 480-835-MASD or email [lane@mesadisabledsports.com](mailto:lane@mesadisabledsports.com).**

### **Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled**

Lane Jeppesen, Executive Director  
59 East Broadway Road  
Mesa, AZ 85210  
480-835-MASD office line  
480-239-5110 cell phone  
480-610-2257 fax line  
[lane@mesadisabledsports.com](mailto:lane@mesadisabledsports.com)

“Recognizing the importance of recreational, leisure and competitive opportunities that contribute to the quality of life, the primary mission of the MASD is to provide a variety of programs and activities to individuals with disabilities. Toward this end, the Association will work to educate, inform and include the community in a comprehensive effort to provide year round activities. Through participation, the athlete will realize individual accomplishment, self-esteem, respect for themselves and others.”



## **Snow or No Snow: The Winter Games Must Go On!**

The 2006 ASO Winter Games were held in Flagstaff on February 24 & 25. Due to the lack of snow, the alpine events had to be canceled but floor hockey, speed skating, figure skating and snow shoeing (on grass) continued. The Mesa delegation did an outstanding job in all the events they entered. In figure skating, Hope Coates took gold, and Kaitlyn Teubner took silver. In snow shoeing Victor Cosgrove took gold in the 100 & 200 meters. Kim Colburn took silver in the 100 & 200 meters, and Philip Hill took bronze in the 100 meters & 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200 meters. The snow shoeing team is coached by Rebekah Dannenberg and Ryan Kiser. The floor hockey team took silver in their division. This was their first year playing and they did an outstanding job. Team members were: Curt & Nate Atkinson, Devin Hohl, Chris Ferry, Matthew Lertique, Ben Manner, Ester Wright, Rodger Rodriques, Beth Rusk, Elizabeth Elliott, Matt Decker and Kaitlyn Teubner. The team was coached by Rebekah Rudow, Stephen Hook, Jake Romanowski and Courtney Keller. Next year the floor hockey team is planning on entering the San Diego Tournament. Congratulations to all of the competitors!

## **Get Involved with Wheelchair Over-The-Line**

The sport is now being moved primarily to the fall. Our three major tournaments will be September 23rd and 24th in San Diego, October 21st in Phoenix and November 18th in Las Vegas. All three tournaments will host Adult and Juniors Divisions. We will begin practicing in June. There will be practice locations in East and West parts of the Valley. If you are not familiar with the game, call and I will send you an instructional CD that I have created. We are always looking for more players. Quads, Paras and even able-bodied players can compete. To learn more, contact Gary Hershey at 602-722-3874.



## “You Look Marvelous” Fashion Show Raises Funding for EVSO Athletes



Partnered with Kohl's Department Stores and Helen Noonan's Beauty Consultants, East Valley Special Olympics is proud to announce the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual “You Look Marvelous” Fashion Show. The event will be held at the Chandler Center for the Arts on May 13, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.

This event serves first as an opportunity to promote disability awareness and to build each athlete's self-esteem. Prior to the “strut down the catwalk” each athlete participates in six weeks of modeling workshops provided by Helen Noonan Beauty Consultants. Each model learns techniques in personal grooming, poise and posture, wardrobe, diet, and personal hygiene.

Second, this event serves as the annual fundraiser for East Valley Special Olympics. For the past four years, we have started the event with a luncheon and silent auction in which our attending guests can bid on baskets full of donated goods, gift certificates, and donated auction items. The catered luncheon is also accompanied by wonderful live music. Last year we were able to raise over \$11,000 for

EVSO programs. One hundred percent of our profits go directly to serve the needs of Special Olympics programs in the East Valley.

We are inviting you and your business to help our silent auction and fashion show become our most successful event ever! Donation items that have been successful in the past include baskets with a theme, (i.e., Date Night, Back to School, Pamper Yourself, etc.) jewelry, furniture, trip for two, or gift certificates of any kind. We also accept money donations. East Valley Special Olympics is a not for profit 501(c)(3) organization, and all donations will receive a receipt with our non-profit information and the value of the item on the form. We have set our goal for this year's show at \$15,000 to meet the needs of the growing East Valley.



On behalf of all East Valley Special Olympians and their families, we thank you for considering our request and look forward to hearing from you! To donate, purchase tickets, or if you have questions regarding the event, please contact Rebekah Dannenberg at (480) 644-4948 before May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.



### Deanna Zuppan Promises to Stay Involved

I am very sad to announce that City of Mesa Recreation Programmer, Deanna Zuppan has accepted a new position with the City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department as a Recreation Supervisor. Although she will be working for a different city, she promises to stay involved with the events that have always been close to her heart. Deanna has always thought of the Kayaking, Hiking, Fashion Show, SkiAble, TGIF, Summer Camp, and many more events as more than just her job, they are her passion. It is very hard for MASD and the City of Mesa to lose such a wonderful employee and friend. We will all miss you! We wish



you all of the luck in the world at your new position in Scottsdale. Keep in touch with your friends in Mesa!!!

### 2006 Desert Challenge Games

Friday, April 28th to Sunday, April 30th

Olympic-style competition for athletes with physical disabilities. Events include Track & Field, Swimming, Table Tennis, Wheelchair Basketball, Archery, Cycling, Weightlifting and Bocce Ball. These events are provided for athletes who are blind, in chairs, using crutches, pushing walkers, etc. Find the registration packet and schedule at [www.mesadisabledsports.com](http://www.mesadisabledsports.com).

### The Big Wish List:

**MASD is looking to acquire the organization's first vehicle. The organization would like to have a truck or cargo van (preferably with less than 50,000 miles and in good shape) in order to be used for transport of equipment to/from and during special events. The vehicle will be a huge asset to the organization by increasing the productivity at each event as well as improving the independence and flexibility of MASD staff. MASD currently relies on rental vehicles or City vehicles (which staff can not drive) for transporting tables, chairs, racing chairs, wheelchairs, coolers, cones, etc. to special events. If you can help MASD in this wish, please contact Lane Jeppesen at 480-835-MASD.**

### **MASD Athlete, Erik Hightower, Receives Huge Honor From WSUSA**



Based on his performance at the 2005 National Junior Disabled Sports Championships, Erik Hightower, an MASD Arizona Heat Track and Field Athlete, has been chosen by Wheelchair Sports USA to compete at an elite high school track meet and raise the awareness of wheelchair sports in America. Erik will travel to White Plains, NY to the Glenn D. Loucks Memorial Games ([www.louckgames.org](http://www.louckgames.org)) on May 13th and 14th. The Louck Games have been one of the premiere high school track and field meets in the U.S. and the largest independent on-campus meet in the nation. In 2005 the Games drew more than 1,000 able-bodied and disabled athletes from over 217 schools in the U.S. and Canada. For the sixth year Wheelchair Sports, USA has partnered with the Games to bring wheelchair track to this event, on an equal footing with the able-bodied events. With this partnership, wheelchair athletes have a competitive high school event at the national level. Congratulations to Erik Hightower!

### **Busy Season for the Banner Wheelchair Phoenix Suns**

**Article Provided By Gary Venjohn**

#### Women's Team

The kickoff to the 2005-2006 season started in Tucson October 22-23 with Women playing their first games. Growing pains were expected but they played well. Losing to the Lady Texans in a close game and later that day to University of Illinois and the U of A. Women. The ladies next competition came at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona PVA Basketball Blowout in Mesa November 4- 6, 2005. They played a great game with the women from Tucson. The lead went back and forth before the women from Tucson winning a close game by two. They next played the Cleveland Cavaliers and Tucson Lobos men's teams and losing both of these games. Sunday the women play the Tucson women again in another close game winning this time by four. The women are back in Tucson on December 19-20, 2005. Again playing a hard fought game with the Tucson women. This time the Tucson Women would prevail. The Women's Wheelchair Suns would also lose the Albuquerque NM and Tucson men's team.

#### Division III

The Adult Division III team was also busy in 2005. The DIII went 3-1 at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona PVA Basketball Blowout. The DIII team beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, Tucson Lobos and the U of A Women's team. The only lose came at the hands of the U of A men's team. On November 19-20, 2005 the DIII team was in Tucson for the U of I Wildcats Tournament. The team went 1-2. Losing to the Albuquerque NM team and the U of A men and beating the Tucson Lobos.

#### Division I

The Division I team first saw action in November 2005 at the University of Illinois Tournament. The teams first action and first time together did not produce good results. The team went 1-2 for the weekend. They beat the host team and lost to Denver Nuggets and the University of Whitewater at Wisconsin. Next action for the DI team would be in Mesa at the Arizona PVA 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Basketball Roundup.

This time they played much better and beat the Toronto Raptors and losing to the Dallas Mavericks, Milwaukee Bucks and Denver Nuggets.



## MESA PARKS AND RECREATION

### A Message About Programs and Services

**The City of Mesa is currently facing enormous challenges in regard to our financial situation.** Without new revenues, we are projected to face a significant deficit beginning July 1, 2006. At the Mayor's request, a citizens committee has studied the situation and made several recommendations to City Council, including placing one or more tax initiatives on the May 2006 election ballot for voters to consider. Their report is available on the City of Mesa Web site, at: <http://www.cityofmesa.org/finance/committee.asp>. In the very near future, the City Council must finalize budget reductions that would need to go into effect if no new revenue sources are realized. Such cuts would severely impact the services Mesa Parks and Recreation currently provides. These proposed cuts include the following:

- **Elimination of all recreation programs for physically and developmentally disabled youth and adults.**

#### *What does this mean to you, our valued customers?*

Due to our financial situation, the City has also instituted a hiring freeze. As Parks and Recreation staff positions become open, we will not be able to fill them. Remaining staff will be reassigned to compensate for vacancies, requiring us to reduce and/or eliminate services provided. We will continue to do our best to minimize the impact to you. We encourage you to visit the City of Mesa Web site ([www.cityofmesa.org](http://www.cityofmesa.org)) to stay up to date concerning Mesa's financial situation. The Web site also provides information on how to contact your City Council district representative for additional information. These are difficult times for all of us and we appreciate your patience, patronage, and support. Thank you!

Bob White

Parks and Recreation Director 11-21-05

## EAST VALLEY SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEWS

On February 28th, the Basketball Individual Skills Competition was held at Lehi Community Center for the first time. Thanks to Shelly Merrill and her volunteers, the competition was a great success.



March 28th is the EVSO Tennis Competition which will be held at the Chandler Tennis Center, 2250 South McQueen Road. Check in will be at 6:00 PM.

March 24th and 25th, the Arizona Special Olympics State Basketball and Cheer Competition will be held in Mesa at 10 different sites: Brimhall Junior High, Red Mountain High School, Shepherd Junior High, Red Mountain Recreation Center, Fremont Junior High, Jefferson Recreation Center, Skyline High School, Smith Junior High, Broadway Recreation Center and the Mountain View High School.



April 21st will be the EVSO Track and Field Competition at Mesa High School. April 22nd will be the EVSO Gymnastics Competition which will be held in Tempe at Westside Multigenerational Center, 715 West 5th Street.

## MESA SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRACK AND FIELD

The Mesa Special Olympics Track and Field program began the first week of February. Track East began on Thursday, February 2nd at Skyline High School with a larger crowd than usual, including younger individuals. They gained a few more skilled volunteers for the season as well. The adult west program started the following Tuesday, February 7th at Mesa High School and the juniors started shortly after on Thursday, February 9th. For more information about the track team, contact Susan Byrne at 480-644-5702 or email [susan.byrne@cityofmesa.org](mailto:susan.byrne@cityofmesa.org).

### **2006 Desert Challenge Air Pistol and Rifle Competition**

**Saturday, April 1st, 2006 from 2-6 PM**

**Webster Gymnasium; 202 N. Sycamore Rd, Mesa, AZ**

**Athletes, Spectators and Volunteers Needed!!! Contact Lane Jeppesen at 480-835-MASD or email [lane@mesadisabledsports.com](mailto:lane@mesadisabledsports.com).**



## TEAM ARIZONA ON THE WAY TO NATIONALS IN IOWA

The Team Arizona roster for the 2006 Special Olympics National Games in Ames, Iowa includes several athletes, partners and coaches from our local Mesa program. Congratulations and best of luck to the following individuals that will represent our state on July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006. For further information on the games, visit [www.2006nationalgames.org](http://www.2006nationalgames.org).

### Unified Basketball

Toni Barlow - Partner  
Ryan Burgett - Athlete  
Dennis Burgett - Partner  
Chris Ferry - Athlete  
Kevin Hartley - Athlete  
Jamie Oliver - Coach  
Andrew Orlopp - Partner  
Dontae Phillips - Partner  
Cyrus Scaccia - Athlete  
William Stewart - Athlete

### Bocce Ball

Phillip Hill - Athlete  
Tabitha O'Conner - Athlete

### Gymnastics

Vicky Martin - Athlete  
Rebekah Rudow - Coach

### Golf

Danny D'Aguanno - Athlete  
Tom D'Aguanno - Partner  
Greg Leicht - Coach

### Athletics

Michael Bixler - Athlete



## MASD Introduces Three New Board Members

**Cathy Pai:** I am thrilled to be involved with MASD. I have been actively involved in the field of Education for thirty years. Currently, in addition to my seat on the Board of this organization, I am a Board Member for the Gilbert Education Foundation and write a community column for the Arizona Republic. I earned my degree in Behavioral Psychology from the University of Central Florida (Go Knights!) and recently completed Gilbert Leadership Class XII.

I am blessed with a large and loving family. My loving husband V.P. is supportive of my commitment to making our community a better place. Our children; Stacey & son-in-law John, Shawn, Tara, Deven and my ward Liz inspire me and fill my life with love.

I grew up in the White house. No not the Washington D.C. house, but rather the warm and welcoming home of my parents Marge and the late Ronald White. I would not be who I am today without their kind, gentle and humorous guidance.

My personal philosophy is faith, family, friends and fun. I plan to bring all of these things to the Board. Of course, I also bring along my commitment to serve all of the MASD athletes for the next three years.

**Heather Coonan:** I was born and raised in Flagstaff and have two younger sisters. I moved to Phoenix to attend ASU (B.S. in Anthropology and a B.S. in Philosophy) and I've just kinda stuck around.



My hobbies are ballroom dancing, watching hockey, movies, reading, keeping aquariums, and I'm always taking some kind of educational class to keep my brain busy and to further myself in some area. My future goals are to publish a book and to complete law school.

And then you have my resume. I am very motivated to help people with disabilities. Along with serving on the Board of Directors for MASD, I am the CEO of Disability Solutions, Inc. and the Co-Owner/Director of Disability Development Resources, L.L.C. You can learn more about this organization at [www.ddresources.com](http://www.ddresources.com). I am also the Founder and Board Chair for Respite on Wheels, Inc. Find more information at [www.respiteonwheels.org](http://www.respiteonwheels.org). I look forward to supporting the athletes involved with MASD!

**Barb Peacock:** Hi! My name is Barb Peacock. I was born and raised in Western New York and moved to Arizona as a new bride in January of 1976. I have two sons: Joe who lives in LA and is getting married this May; and K C. who is married and has 2 sons, ages 3 and 1 week. I have been a teacher for physically disabled students for Mesa Public Schools for the past 24 years and have been at Mesa High for the past 12. I have also coached track, field, bocce, and power soccer for MASD for many of these years. Power soccer keeps me the busiest these days as, in addition to our fun practices at the BRC, I am also the Secretary of the United States Power Soccer Association, a new group being formed to regulate and expand the sport throughout the States. I have also had the great opportunity to travel to France and Portugal last year to help develop the International rules for power soccer with the hopes of making it a Paralympic sport some day. In the little bit of spare time I leave for myself, I would love to sit on any beach and read. I am happy for the opportunity to participate on the Board of MASD and hope that I will be of value to this great organization.



## FREE ADVERTISING! FREE ADVERTISING! FREE ADVERTISING!



### Disability Development Resources, L.L.C.

Quality people are needed in the East valley to provide Respite, Habilitation and Attendant Care in client homes and the community!

Contact Deborah Lamoree for an application:

Phone: 480-529-6844

Email: [dlamoree@ddresources.com](mailto:dlamoree@ddresources.com)

[www.ddresources.com](http://www.ddresources.com)

### **DDR IS LOOKING FOR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS TO WORK WITH DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS**

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS ARE:

- Must have at least 3 months experience caring for an individual
- Must be able to pass a drug screening
- Must be able to pass a fingerprint background check

Starting wages up to \$9.75/hour, paid training, flexible hours.

### Team Arizona Needs Your Help to Get to Nationals

Special Olympics Arizona has selected Team Arizona to represent our state in the 1st ever 2006 National Special Olympics Summer Games in Ames, Iowa (Team Athletes listed on Page 11 of this newsletter). Special Olympics Arizona is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, which does not receive any funding from government agencies or the United Way. As a result, we rely solely upon the generosity of sponsorships and donations in order to reach our financial goals. It will cost Special Olympics Arizona approximately \$2,000.00 per athlete, and coach, to send Team Arizona to Ames for



the National Games. This includes costs for training, uniforms, equipment, transportation, meals and lodging. Any help or assistance you might provide would help our athletes reach their goal of winning a medal at next summer's National Special Olympics Summer Games. Your generous tax deductible donation of goods, gifts and/or services would directly enhance Team Arizona's fund raising efforts. Please contact Toni Jacobs Trull at 602-230-1200, ext 113 or email [tonit@soaz.org](mailto:tonit@soaz.org).



### THANK YOU TO THE MASD YEAR-ROUND GENERAL SPONSORS

#### CHAMPION SPONSOR (\$10,000.00)

#### CHALLENGER SPONSOR (\$5,000.00)

Greg and Rhonda Marsh  
Delta Diversified Enterprises, Inc.  
Mesa Ho Ho Kams  
Sea Gull Lighting

#### COMPETITOR SPONSOR (\$2,500.00)

Desert Club of Mesa  
Pete and Phyllis Mizioch  
W. Bradford Perkinson  
United States Disabled Athletes Fund

#### CHARGER SPONSOR (\$1,000.00)

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W.S.P., Inc.  
Wal-Mart Foundation

Become a Sponsor by contacting Lane Jeppesen at 480-835-MASD or email [lane@mesadisabledsports.com](mailto:lane@mesadisabledsports.com).

# MASD Yearly Schedule

Below you will find a tentative schedule of our yearly sports programs. Specific dates and times of practices will vary yearly.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTS—for individuals with intellectual disabilities

SPORT	LOCATION	PRACTICE DAYS & TIMES	
<b>SUMMER</b>			
Aquatics - Adult / Junior	Kino Pool	Saturday	9-11:30 am
Bocce Ball	Dreamland Villa	Thursday	7-8 pm
Golf	Mesa Golf Center	Tuesday	6-8 pm
<b>FALL</b>			
Bowling - Adult (Year -round)	AMF-Apache	Wednesday	3:30-5:30 pm
Bowling - East	Mesa Bowl	Wednesday	6-8 pm
Bowling - Junior	AMF-Apache	Monday	4:30-6 pm
Bowling - Unified (Year-round)	AMF-Apache	Saturday	12:30-3 pm
Soccer - Adult / Junior	Franklin West	Monday/Wednesday	6:30-8:45 pm
<b>WINTER/SPRING</b>			
Baseball	Ellsworth / Countryside	Varies	Varies
Cheerleading	Broadway Rec. Center	Tuesday	6:30-7:30 pm
Basketball - Adult	TBA	Monday/Wednesday	6-7:30 pm
Basketball - Junior	Broadway Rec. Center	Tuesday	TBA
Basketball - Unified	TBA	Monday/Wednesday	7:30-9 pm
Gymnastics	USA Gymnastics	Wednesday	7-8 pm
<b>SPRING/SUMMER</b>			
Track/Field - Adult	Mesa High School	Tuesday	6-8 pm
Track/Field - East	Skyline High School	Thursday	6-8 pm
Track/Field - Junior	Mesa High School	Thursday	6-8 pm
Tennis	Mesa Country Club	Thursday	6:30-8 pm

## PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED SPORTS—for individuals with physical disabilities

SPORT	SEASON	LOCATION	TENTATIVE PRACTICE DAYS & TIMES	
Aquatics	Spring	Kino Pool	Saturday	12:30-2 pm
Boccia	Spring	Mesa High	Wednesday	3-4:30 pm
Bowling	Fall	AMF - Southern	Saturday	12-2 pm
Goalball	School year	Eisenhower Elem,	Thursday	4:30-6:30 pm
Power Soccer	School year	Broadway Rec. Center	Tuesday	4-6:15 pm
Track, Field, Handcycling	Spring	Mesa High	Saturday	8:30-11:30 am
Wheelchair Basketball	School year	Webster Gym	Monday	6:30-8:30 pm
Wheelchair Rugby	Ongoing	Broadway Rec. Center	Varies	Varies

For further information on any of the above programs, please call Susan Byrne (480) 644-5702.

**Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled (MASD)**

59 East Broadway Road  
Mesa, Arizona 85210

Phone: 480-835-MASD  
Fax: 480-610-2257  
Email: lane@mesadisabledsports.com

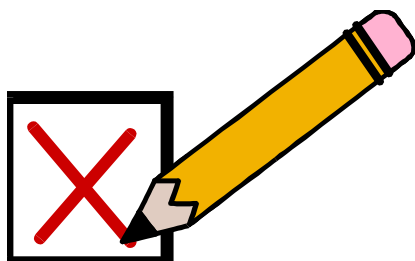
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**Find us on the web!!!**  
**[www.mesadisabledsports.com](http://www.mesadisabledsports.com)**

*"Let No One Sit On The  
Sidelines"*



If you would like to receive information and updates by e-mail, you have the opportunity of joining our list serve. We would like to put together an email distribution list to include athletes, families, coaches and community members that would like to regularly receive information about the provided MASD programs. If you have an email account that you would like to use to receive this newsletter and other additional MASD updates, please fill out the information below.



Please check the box below and return to MASD at P.O. Box 4727, Mesa, AZ 85211.

Yes, I would like to receive email updates and MASD information at

\_\_\_\_\_

Please remove my email address from the list to receive information from MASD.

I do not have an email address but would like to receive frequent information in the mail about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, etc.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_