

<http://pleasantonweekly.com/square/print/2014/05/05/gold-medalist-appears-at-pleasanton-special-olympics-event>

Gold Medalist Appears at Pleasanton Special Olympics Event

Original post made by Ken mano on May 5, 2014

Thanks to our Volunteers!!!

We had a great Special Olympics Track Meet, it would not have been a success without such great volunteers, many have done this for years... even stepping up as supervisors and assistant supervisors of the staging, timing, track & field events, awards and volleyball. In fact the volleyball tournament is completely run by our volunteers from the tournament director to court managers, referees and scorekeepers.



There were 400 athletes comprising 15 Track Teams and 12 Volleyball teams.

The Opening Ceremonies were impressive, with Greg Clark of the 49ers stepping in at the last minute as a substitute Emcee and doing an amazing job, then staying all day presenting awards. Mayor Jerry Thorne gave a wonderful welcoming address, citing Michael Jordan as an example. The Pleasanton Police color guard was impressive, and Kaitlyn West gave a stirring rendition of the national anthem. A highlight was the appearance and talk by Eddie Hart, gold medalist in the 4 by 100 at the Munich Games where 11 Israeli athletes were massacred. He gave an inspirational message to the athletes. And of course the running of the torch and recitation of the Olympic Oath are touching "Let me Win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt".

We had 340 volunteers in all areas from Registration to events, Lunch and Snack Bar. The Snack Bar's net profits for the day were nearly \$700, which will be donated to Special Olympics.

Groups which participated with large numbers were AVHS (59), National Charity League (58), Boys Team Charity (42), the LDS Church (39 including 14 missionaries) and Foothill High School (28). There were some smaller groups, from the Girl Scouts, Boy Scoutsgs, Kaiser, TAPS from Walnut Creek.

Thanks to Kurt Rosenthal, who took hundreds of photos during the day.

Ellen Slater said "This event still has moments that bring me to tears, and I love every minute of it! We had a great day and we were so happy to help out".

Many Thanks to the Amador Valley Athletic Boosters for hosting this event for 11 years, providing funds for the T-Shirts for over 700 volunteers for the Basketball, Volleyball and Track events, to the PUSD and AVHS Administration for providing facilities, volunteers and support.

Most of all, thanks to the volunteers who give of their precious time and energy to help these special athletes and their parents. You've made a difference in our community and done a little more to show that we are a "community of character" (see www.communityofcharacter.org).

Thanks for Helping,

Ken Mano
Special Olympics Coordinator
Amador Valley Athletic Boosters

Comments

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