



TEAM USA—2013 World Dwarf Games

Official Newsletter of the Dwarf Athletic Association of America

November
2012

Welcome to the November edition of TEAM USA News, your monthly resource for staying up-to-date with DAAA's activities as TEAM USA prepares for the 2013 World Dwarf Games.

During October's Dwarfism Awareness Month, DAAA worked to do our part to increase awareness of dwarf athletics. Here are some of the highlights of the month.

DAAA Holds Press Conference to Announce the 2013 World Dwarf Games

On October 25, 2012, DAAA held a press conference to announce the 2013 World Dwarf Games, which will be held August 3-10, 2013 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. Over 500 athletes from more than 25 nations and all continents are expected to compete in the World Dwarf Games, making these Games the largest sporting event in history exclusively for dwarf athletes.

Amy Andrews, DAAA Board President, announced the Games return to MSU, which is wholly appropriate, as the movement for organized dwarf athletics began on the campus of Michigan State University almost 30 years ago. Amy introduced Honorary Games Directors Rick Atkinson and Kellie Dean. Mr. Dean, President & CEO, Dean Transportation, encouraged area residents to "join us here in August to watch some amazing athletic performances". Mr. Atkinson, Assistant Athletic Director, Michigan State University added "MSU has a fundamental belief that athletic opportunity should be available to all who aspire to personal mastery. Thirty years ago, the first formal organized athletic competition for dwarf athletes happened right on this campus. Now dwarf sports programs are happening all over the world. MSU could not be more proud to welcome those athletes from every corner of the globe back to where it all started."

In addition, Erin Popovich, the most decorated dwarf athlete in the world, encouraged TEAM USA athletes to take full advantage of participating in this amazing international competition while it is on their home soil. She further encouraged dwarf athletes from around the world to wear their country's colors with pride while experiencing the excitement of international competition at the World Games.

Arthur Dean, President, International Dwarf Athletic Federation (IDAF) shared "These Games are so much more than athletic competition. They change lives, not just in sport. Many dwarfs now pursue careers in sports related professions, teaching, training, coaching and more. This creates a wider understanding that people with dwarfism love sport and deserve a venue in which to be competitive."

To view Erin Popovich's portion of the press conference, [click here](#)

To view Arthur Dean's portion of the press conference, [click here](#)

To view Rick Atkinson's portion of the press conference, [click here](#)

To view Kellie Dean's portion of the press conference, [click here](#)



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To learn more about the World Dwarf Games visit our website:

2013worlddwarfgames.org

To learn more about the DAAA visit our website: daaa.org

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DAAA Hosts Visit from IDAF and DSAUK Leadership Team

On October 24-27, DAAA and the World Dwarf Games (WDG) Steering Committee were pleased to host Arthur Dean, President, International Dwarf Athletic Federation (IDAF) and President, Dwarf Sports Association United Kingdom (DSAUK), Steve Scott, Trustee, DSAUK and Tim Shephard, Development Officer, DSAUK in East Lansing, Michigan.

Arthur, Steve and Tim flew from London to Detroit to personally visit the competition venues for the 2013 World Dwarf Games and meet with WDG steering committee and DAAA board members. Our hosts, Michigan State University (MSU) and Mason High School, opened their arms to our British friends. After the completion of two days of site visits to MSU and the Mason Aquatic Center, the WDG steering committee and the IDAF and DSAUK leadership met for a day, reviewing plans for the upcoming World Games and discussing how to continue to advance dwarf sport throughout the world. The DAAA leadership team was thrilled to spend time with our UK colleagues in dwarf sports. We look forward to their return in August for the World Dwarf Games.

Following is the IDAF and DSAUK leadership members feedback on their visit to the East Lansing area:

“DAAA presented us with world-class venues, ready to host a world-class event. Dwarf athletes will turn it into a world-class competition.”

“We’ve never met so many sporting Americans in such a short space of time. The welcome was wonderful, facilities great and the atmosphere electric. It’s going to be brilliant Games.”

“The support and encouragement from the Sponsors is real – you can feel their enthusiasm and passion to deliver the World Dwarf Games to East Lansing, Michigan.”

-----Arthur Dean, President, IDAF

“Superb venues, beautiful surroundings, excellent staff.”

“The Athlete Village offers great accommodation and will enable team spirit to flourish as the competition heats up during the Games.”

----Steve Scott, DSAUK Trustee

Erin Popovich Inducted into Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame

On October 25, 2012, members of the DAAA and DSAUK leadership teams and the World Games Steering Committee were thrilled to watch as Erin Popovich was inducted into the Athletes with Disabilities National Hall of Fame in Detroit, Michigan. Founded in 1999 by the Athletes with Disabilities Network, the National Hall of Fame

has recognized nearly 100 individuals who share a passion for life and a dedication to inspire others through their words, actions and giving back to the greater community. The National Hall of Fame is dedicated to men and women who have overcome physical challenges to become elite athletes and role models. The induction ceremony celebrates the strength of the human spirit and the value of never giving up on a dream. (continued on page 3)



Photo by Guang Niu, Gerty, US Paralympics



A trophy carries dust. Memories last forever.

~ Mary Lou Retton ~



“If you aren’t going all the way, why go at all?”

~Joe Namath ~



Erin Popovich (continued from page 2)

Since beginning her early swimming career as a DAAA athlete, Erin Popovich became one of the most heralded Paralympic athletes of all time in any sport. She has earned 14 gold and 5 silver medals in Paralympic swimming competition and has established numerous world records in both Class 6 and Class 7, often resetting her previous records. She is a versatile swimmer, with medals and records in freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly and individual medley disciplines. Popovich has represented the USA at the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Paralympic Games and the 1998, 2002, 2006 and 2010 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) World Championships. She established numerous World and American swim records. Erin currently serves in the position of Classification & Emerging Sports Program Administrator for U.S. Paralympics.

DAAA is proud to have played a part in Erin's swimming career and is thrilled to see her take her place in the National Hall of Fame.

To read more about Erin's amazing swimming career, click here [ADN Hall of Fame - Erin Popovich.pdf](#)



Photo by Joe Kusumoto, US Paralympics



Eric Potter Completes Florida Ironman; Raises Donations and Awareness for DAAA

After training for one year, Eric Potter successfully completed the Ironman Florida race on November 3, 2012. Eric, father of six year old DAAA athlete Brett Potter, successfully completed the 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride and 26.2 mile run in 14:23:45. In addition to the incredibly intense training that Eric committed to the Ironman event, Eric worked tirelessly to raise funds and awareness for DAAA. Eric asked his friends, family, associates and local community members to support his Ironman efforts by donating to DAAA. Eric maintained a blog to keep his supporters up-to-date on his preparation

for the big event. Eric's DAAA awareness campaign resulted in over \$1000 in donations from his Ironman supporters.

On behalf of all of our athletes and our Board of Directors, thank you Eric for all that you have done for DAAA!

To read Eric's blog about his Ironman preparation and race day, click here [Ironman For Dwarf Athletic Association](#)

Sport Focus: Track & Field

Did you know that Scott Danberg was the only DAAA athlete who competed at the 2012 Paralympics? DAAA needs to step-up its efforts to qualify more athletes for future Paralympic Games and IPC World Track and Field Championships, especially in the field events where there is a unique competition classification (F40) for dwarf athletes.

(Continued on page 4)



"The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur."

~Vince Lombardi~



"Our greatest glory is not in never falling but in rising every time we fall."

~Confucius~



Sport Focus (continued from page 3)

You can help! Junior athletes need to learn discus, javelin, and shot put at an earlier age; these events will be included for 10-12 year old athletes at the World Dwarf Games (the rest of the world is ahead of DAAA in these events). Consider purchasing your own equipment so that you can practice regularly in the months leading up to the Games. And there still is time to join a community or school track and field team to gain access to expert coaching and great facilities. Athletes who are serious about the throwing events should study the information in the attached "How Do I Become a Paralympian" document.

Field Events

The following throwing events will be offered at the 2013 World Dwarf Games. Individual results from the Juniors 13-15, Open, and Masters age divisions will be reported to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) for athletes who currently are licensed with the IPC.

- **Futures age 6 & under** - floppy flyer toss, tennis ball throw
- **Juniors age 7-9** - frisbee toss, tennis ball throw
- **Juniors age 10-12** - either frisbee toss or discus (500g for boys and girls), javelin (270g for boys and girls), either cricket ball throw (about the same size as a baseball) or shot put (2.72kg for boys and 2kg for girls)
- **Juniors age 13-15** - discus (1kg for boys and 750g for girls), javelin (600g for boys and 400g for girls), shot put (3kg for boys and 2 kg for girls)
- **Open any age** - discus (1kg for men and 750g for women), javelin (600g for men and 400g for women), shot put (4kg for men and 3 kg for women)
- **Masters age 35 & older** - discus (1kg for men and 750g for women), javelin (600g for men and 400g for women), shot put (4kg for men and 3 kg for women)

DAAA will provide equipment for use at the World Dwarf Games; however, many serious throwers purchase their own equipment. Personal equipment may be used in competition if it satisfies equipment specifications from the IDAF rule book. The 1kg discus, 400g/600g javelins, and 3kg/4kg shots are readily available from a variety of sporting goods retailers; look for equipment that is approved by the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations). The lighter-weight throwing equipment is more difficult to locate in the USA. Here are some sources to consider.

- **Discus.** Marchant's School Sport Ltd (marchants.com) sells a 750g discus for \$5.75 (Item #K75), and 1kg discus for \$6.50 (Item #K10). This equipment is appropriate for training purposes, but is not IAAF-approved for competition.
- **Javelin.** Amazon.com sells the Nordic Sandvik Kid's 270g javelin for \$39.95. Use an internet search engine to look for other vendors.
- **Shot put.** Marchant's School Sport Ltd. (marchants.com) sells a 2kg shot for \$11.95 (Item #SP25), and 2.72kg shot for \$15.95 (Item #SP27). This equipment is appropriate for training purposes, but is not IAAF-approved for competition.

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One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than 50 preaching it.

~ Knute Rockne ~



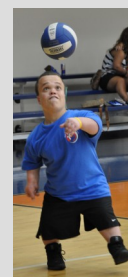
"If you don't invest very much, then defeat doesn't hurt very much and winning is not very exciting."

~ Dick Vermeil ~



Set your goals high, and don't stop till you get there.

~ Bo Jackson ~



Sport Focus (continued from page 4)

Track Events

The 2013 World Dwarf Games will offer a full complement of both individual and relay track events. New additions include the wheelchair slalom event for scooter/wheelchair users, and the shuttle relays for futures and juniors division athletes.

- **Futures age 6 & under** - 15m run, 20m run, wheelchair slalom, 6 & under 4 x 20m shuttle relay
- **Juniors age 7-9** - 20m run, 40m run, wheelchair slalom, 9 & under 4 x 20m shuttle relay
- **Juniors age 10-12** - 40m run, 60m run, wheelchair slalom, 12 & under 4 x 40m shuttle relay
- **Juniors age 13-15** - 60m run, 100m run, wheelchair slalom, 15 & under 4 x 60m shuttle relay
- **Open any age** - 100m run, 200m run, wheelchair slalom, 4 x 100m relay
- **Masters age 35 & older** - 100m run, 200m run, wheelchair slalom, 4 x 100m relay

The wheelchair slalom is an obstacle course that tests the athlete's ability to maneuver his/her scooter or wheelchair through a series of forward and reverse gates, as well as 180° and 360° turns. The slalom event is conducted indoors on a gym floor. The slalom event is intended to accommodate athletes who regularly use a scooter or wheelchair for activities of daily living. Consult the IDAF track rules ([2013 World Dwarf Games: Rules of Track & Field](#)) for more information.

Shuttle relays are conducted on the straight-away section of the track. Each relay team is assigned two adjacent lanes, with the first and third runners starting in one lane at the start/finish line, and the second and fourth runners starting in the adjacent lane at the turn line. There is no baton exchange; instead, the previous runner must finish her/his leg of the relay before the next runner may start. Separate relay events will be held for male and female athletes.

To learn more about how you can become a Paralympic athlete, click here [How Do I Become a Paralympian.pdf](#)

Reported by Gail Dummer
2013 World Dwarf Games Steering Committee Staff

DAAA Fundraising Campaigns

With the addition of the 2013 World Dwarf Games to DAAA's calendar of events, DAAA currently has several fundraising initiatives underway to support our expanded responsibilities:

1. **DAAA Annual Appeal Campaign** – supports the annual, on-going operations of DAAA, with the primary focus of funding our annual National Games. This fundraising initiative consists of an annual direct mail appeal to DAAA athletes, families and friends.
2. **2013 World Dwarf Games Fundraising** – supports the extraordinary costs associated with DAAA's hosting of the 2013 World Dwarf Games. Fundraising initiatives include sponsor appeals and grant development.

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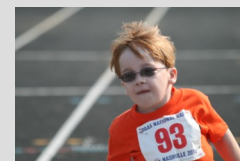
Just keep going. Everybody gets better if they keep at it.

~ Ted Williams ~



Push yourself again and again. Don't give an inch until the final buzzer sounds.

~ Larry Bird ~



DAAA Fundraising Campaigns (continued from page 5)

3. **TEAM USA Uniform Fundraising Appeal** – this appeal is attempting to provide for some of the extraordinary costs associated with the purchase of uniforms for our TEAM USA athletes that will compete in the 2013 World Dwarf Games. A fundraising team of parents/athletes are currently focused on sourcing donations from outside of DAAA for this appeal.

Very soon you will likely receive DAAA's Annual Appeal letter and reply card in your mailbox. Outside of athlete registration fees, our Annual Appeal is the largest single source of annual funding for DAAA. Since athlete registration fees typically cover only 1/3 of the costs associated with our annual Games and operation of DAAA, our Annual Appeal Campaign is crucial to the on-going health of DAAA. Your annual donation helps DAAA pay the costs of facility rentals, officials, transportation, awards, athletic equipment, insurance and other costs associated with the operation of the organization. As you think about your end-of-year charitable giving, please consider an investment in DAAA. Thank you in advance for your commitment to our athletes.

If you would like to contribute on-line to our Annual Appeal, please click here and enter "Annual Appeal" in the "Designation" box: [Network for Good :: Make Donation to DAAA](#)

If you would like to help with any of our fundraising initiatives or if you have a contact name that could be a source of sponsorship or donation, please contact Mike Cekanor at daaa.mike.cekanor@gmail.com.

Webmaster Volunteer Needed

DAAA is currently seeking a volunteer that can assist with growing and maintaining DAAA's web presence. On-going responsibilities would include periodic updates to DAAA's website www.daaa.org. Future work could include the development of a new website for DAAA. Candidate should be well-versed in website development and maintenance and possess knowledge of current web development best practices. If you are interested in assisting DAAA in this important volunteer position, please contact Mike Cekanor at daaa.mike.cekanor@gmail.com.

Important Upcoming Dates

Mid-January 2013 - World Dwarf Games Registration will be available in both an on-line format and a paper format. Check the World Games website periodically for more information on registration availability: www.2013worlddwarfgames.org

- April 15, 2013 – Regular Registration due for World Dwarf Games
- April 30, 2013 – Late Registration due for World Dwarf Games
- August 3 - 10, 2013 – World Dwarf Games, East Lansing, Michigan



It's not the will to win that matters—everyone has that. It's the will to prepare to win that **matters**.

~ Paul "Bear" Bryant~



"The more you sweat in practice, the less you bleed in battle."

~Author Unknown~





TEAM USA Athlete Profile

Name: Eli Nelson

Age: 8

Home: Allen, Texas

Job: Student, 2nd grade

How long have you participated in DAAA Games? I have competed at National Games events for two years.

How did you get involved in DAAA? My mom and dad have participated as athletes and have helped DAAA as sports technical officers. My grandma has served as a sports technical officer for DAAA for many years.

Favorite DAAA sport: Soccer

What sports do you play at home? Tae Kwon Do

Favorite DAAA memory: When me and my team won 1st place in soccer.

What is your sporting ambition? I would like to win more medals in soccer.

Why are you looking forward to the 2013 World Dwarf Games? I look forward to playing basketball, football, and playing with my friends at the Games!



Thanks for spending a few minutes with DAAA! Next month's newsletter will highlight important information on how to register for the World Games and some of the housing options that are available, including Athletes Village on the MSU campus. The December newsletter will also bring you more in-depth training information on one of our sports offerings, more DAAA news, and a profile on one of our athletes.

Until then, Happy Thanksgiving!

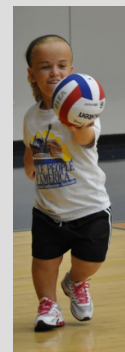
Sincerely,

Mike Cekanor
Team USA Chef de Mission
Dwarf Athletic Association of America
daaa.mike.cekanor@gmail.com



"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will."

~ Vince Lombardi ~



"It is not wanting to win that makes you a winner; it is refusing to fail."

~Unknown~

