



News Release

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2013 World Dwarf Games and Honorary Directors Announced Today at Press Conference

LANSING; MI – The Dwarf Athletic Association of America (DAAA) held a press conference today to announce the 2013 World Dwarf Games to be held August 3-10, 2013, at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI, USA. The Games are a quadrennial multi-sport competition designed for dwarf athletes. Over 500 athletes from more than 25 nations and all continents are expected to compete at the 2013 Dwarf Games, making this the largest sporting event in history exclusively for athletes with dwarfism.

DAAA President Amy Andrews announced the Dwarf Games return to MSU, where the games began nearly 30 years ago and introduced the Games Honorary Directors, Rick Atkinson and Kellie Dean. “An event of this magnitude requires teamwork, we are pleased to announce our Honorary Directors today, both dedicated to creating an excellent experience for the athletes and spectators at the 2013 World Dwarf Games,” she said.

Honorary event Directors Rick Atkinson, Assistant Athletics Director, Michigan State University and Kellie Dean, President, Dean Transportation announced the games and welcomed area residents to participate as spectators at the games.

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“We encourage the residents of Lansing, East Lansing, Mason and the surrounding communities to join us here next August to watch some amazing athletic performances during the largest sporting event in history exclusively for dwarf athletes,” said K. Dean. “We know we can count on the world class hospitality of our communities to help these athletes feel at home,” added K. Dean.

“MSU has a fundamental belief that athletic opportunity should be available to all who aspire to personal mastery,” said Atkinson.” 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,” he said.

Other speakers included:

Erin Popovich, the most decorated dwarf athletes in the world

“The opportunity to see yourself as an athlete, and to be taken seriously by others as an athlete, can open doors you might never had imagined,” said Popovich.

Arthur Dean, President of the International Dwarf Athletes Federation

“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 helps create a wider understanding that people with dwarfism love sport and deserve a venue in which to be competitive,” said A. Dean.

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