



Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

For Immediate Release

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Special Olympics athletes have great weekend at State

The Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 team brought back 19 awards including nine gold, four silver and three bronze medals from the Illinois Special Olympics Summer Games the weekend of June 7-9 in Bloomington-Normal

The athletes and coaches had a team dinner on Friday before the opening ceremonies and the Parade of Athletes with their District 200 banner. They also attended a Saturday night Victory Dance in Uptown Normal

District 200 coach Jennifer Moskowitz said Special Olympics Illinois is getting closer to its pre-COVID numbers. More than 3,400 athletes, 1,300 coaches, and 50 Unified Partners from 444 teams/agencies qualified to compete at this year's Summer Games.

District 200 athletes, who qualified for state at previous events, medaled in powerlifting, track & field events, gymnastics and swimming

"It's always amazing to see all the growth our athletes achieve year after year — not only in their sport, but also in their social, communication and independence skills. We love all the friendships that our athletes, families and coaches develop through participating in Special Olympics," Moskowitz said.

Other coaches include Cory Knopik, Jeanine Vetter, Tamera Tillman, Michael Vorderer along with volunteer Elizabeth Moskowitz.

Knopik thanked all of the coaches, parents, volunteers and athletes. She also thanked the District 200 Transportation Department for helping get the athletes and coaches to their events.

"We're one big family and so proud of everyone's success," Knopik said. "The smiles are contagious and show the pure joy in appreciation of our athletes' hard work."

The following is a list of the winners and results from the District 200 Special Olympics team:

Track and Field

Alex Colin-Estrada - Life Connections - Bronze - 100 M Run, 4th Place Mini Javelin

Easton Freund - Olson Elementary - Silver - Tennis Ball Throw

David Gruett - Woodstock North - 6th Place - 200 M Run

Swimming

Grace Durante - Creekside Middle School - Silver - 25 M Freestyle

Henry Carney - St. Mary - Gold - 25 M Freestyle

Powerlifting

Blake Svitak - Alexander Leigh Center for Autism - Gold - Bench Press - lifting 95 lbs, Gold - Deadlift - lifting 185 lbs, Gold - Combination - lifting a total of 280 lbs

Swimming

Henry Carney - St. Mary - Silver - 50M Freestyle

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Level 1 Ball

Aubrey Zientek - Olson Elementary - Gold

Madison Kniola - Life Connections- Bronze

Level 1 Ribbon

Aubrey Zientek - Olson Elementary - Gold

Madison Kniola - Life Connections - Bronze

Level 2 - Ribbon

Katie Thomas - Woodstock North - Gold

Olivia Covell - Life Connections - Gold

Level 2 - Clubs

Katie Thomas - Woodstock North - Gold

Olivia Covell - Life Connections - Silver