

2 win medals at Special Olympics

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Their parents cried, screamed and hollered. And in return, their children brought back the gold in the International Summer Special Olympics Games held July 19-27 in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

Swimmer Kirk Mason, 17, an 11th grader at Farmington High School and son of Pat and Larry Mason of Farmington Hills, won a gold medal with his relay team and several other awards. He took fourth place in the 50 meter freestyle, fifth place in the 50 meter backstroke and fourth place in the 100 meter freestyle.

Gymnast Kirsten Griggs, 20, a recent graduate of Farmington High School, and daughter of Ron and Shirley Griggs of Farmington Hills, won a gold medal in vault and a bronze medal in beam, as well as fourth place in floor exercise.

Her local coach is Barb Aeloo. Her coach for the competition was Patty Brady of Ypsilanti.

Their medals read: "Skill, Courage, Sharing, Joy."

BOTH ATHLETES qualified for the International Summer Special Olympics this year by winning gold medals at the Summer Special Olympics last year. Nancy Joseph, Special Olympics area director, selected the two to be placed in the running for the state lottery pick.

They were chosen from 3,000 athletes, Joseph said.

"We considered attitude, behavior, parent co-operation, coach recommendation, and whether they could be away from home and travel," Joseph said. "We wanted to give this opportunity to someone who would appreciate the privilege."

More than 640 athletes representing more than 80 countries competed in the aquatics division at the 1991 games. Likewise, more than 300 athletes from more than 40 countries competed in the gymnastic events at the 1991 games.

"We started training at the Farmington Training Center," Aeloo said.

For 11 months, Judy and Bob Montgomery donated their gym, the Farmington Gymnastics Center, three times a week so Griggs could practice. Aeloo said.

Mason started training at Farmington High School and continued at the YMCA.

Adam Krause was Mason's local coach.

Private corporations donated use of their private jets to transport the International Summer Special Olympics. "The jets took off every two to three minutes," Joseph said. "The Michigan delegation consisted of 75 athletes, 25 coaches



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Kirk Mason and Kirsten Griggs, Farmington Hills athletes, who participated in the 1991 International Summer Special Olympics Games in Minneapolis/St. Paul brought home the gold. Mason, a

and two different delegates.

This largest sporting event held in the world in 1991 featured 6,000 athletes from 90 countries; 2,000 coaches; 10,000 family and friends; 50,000 volunteers and 25,000 to 50,000 spectators/participants per day, according to a Special Olympics fact sheet.

BOTH GRIGGS and Mason also held part time jobs. Griggs works at Hudson's in Twelve Oaks Mall and Mason works at McDonald's restaurant.

Special Olympics was created by the Joseph P.

swimmer, won a gold medal with his relay team. Griggs, a gymnast, won a gold medal in vault and a bronze medal in beam.

Kennedy Jr. Foundation.

More than 7.5 million people in North America have mental retardation. It's not a mental illness, nor is it a disease.

Mental retardation is a condition that causes people to mature at a below average rate and to learn more slowly, as well as with much greater difficulty than those without mental retardation.

Some 100,000 infants are born with mental retardation each year in the United States. Nearly 10 percent of American families include a member with mental retardation.

House task force urges PAC limits

Calling for a new era in campaign finance law, a House Republican task force today urged limiting the contributions of political action committees and other comprehensive reforms.

Republican state Rep. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills said the task force on campaign finance reform made 21 recommendations after a series of statewide hearings earlier this year.

"The cost, tone and manner of modern elections has hurt public confidence in the political system. This report offers a strategy for restoring that trust," Dolan said. Lawmakers should get their own house in order by eliminating office holder expense funds and refusing to accept cash honorariums. Coupled with these changes, the task force wants to alter the relationship between special interest groups and office seekers.

Under the proposal, PACs would be prohibited from donating to candidates who receive public funding.

CANDIDATES for legislative and statewide office could not spend more than double the amount raised from individual contributors, according to the proposal.

"A legislator's campaign should rise or fall on the strength of widespread, grass-roots support signified by individual donations," Dolan said. "Each of these proposals attempts to decrease the role of special interest money in the election process."

The report documents the expanding role of PACs in the campaign process. In 1988, PACs contributed nearly \$7.6 million to all state, legislative and local candidate committees. By 1990, this figure grew to almost \$11.4 million, or a 49.8 percent increase.

"The individual voice must never be drowned out of the process," Dolan said. "Public disclosure is vital. Voters should know how campaigns are financed and information should

be easy to obtain."

To accomplish this goal, the lawmakers would grant stronger enforcement and auditing authority to the secretary of state while allocating additional money to computerize campaign finance records.

Other recommendations in the report include:

- prohibiting the delivery of contributions to House and Senate candidates within the Capitol and legislative office buildings.

- prohibiting registered lobbyists or agents from directly distributing contributions.

- extending campaign finance laws to candidates in cities, villages, townships, counts and school districts.

"This report would require accountability by state and local candidates and special interest groups. These ideas offer a substantive start worthy of bipartisan support," Dolan said.

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IF YOU HURT ALL OVER & EVERYWHERE

You may think that relief is impossible if you hurt in all joints and everywhere in your body. When can the doctor begin to treat?

You are not in a hopeless position. Because movement is a coordinated action involving the whole body, usually one or two key joints, if relieved, will reverse the flare.

In the legs, often the knees are the source of the trouble. If you cannot walk properly, your back will hurt as you adopt a forward flexed position to spare knee strain. That change in posture brings on discomfort to your hips and thighs. The cumulative effect causes pain in the ankles and feet because of stress at these sites from your impaired gait.

In the arms, the shoulders are the pivotal joints. Limitation of shoulder motion puts a strain on the elbows, wrists and hands. When you wash, eat, drive, or hold a pen the strain continues and increases. In time these other joints begin to ache, claiming attention so they can obtain the relief from movement the body gives to the shoulders.

Thus, it is not necessary to increase your medication or change your therapy when you "hurt all over." Rather, your doctor will seek a key joint. Removing fluid from your shoulder or knee may initiate a change that provides relief for all your body.

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