

Pretty Special

Team Farmington, public safety officers unite in hockey game

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Complete with "Guns and Hoses" patches on their shoulders, members of the Farmington Public Safety Department again took on Team Farmington's Special Olympics squad in a floor hockey contest.

For the third consecutive year, members of the department — who perform the dual role of police officers/ firefighters — defeated Team Farmington, 5-3 Tuesday evening at the Farmington Training Center.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

And once again, the experience enabled the Special Olympians and Public Safety Department personnel an opportunity to get to know each other and perhaps break down possible stereotypes.

Win-win situation

"It's a good thing for everyone," said Farmington Public Safety Commander Bob Schulz, who played in goal for his team. "The Special Olympics kids are enjoying it, we enjoy it. It's built some good friendships. We see these kids in the community



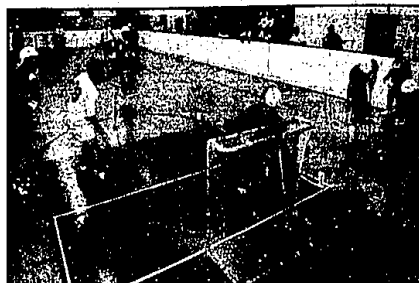
STAYING EMOTIONAL AND BALANCED: THE KEY TO

Unified: Members of the Team Farmington Special Olympics and Farmington Public Safety Department floor hockey teams pose for a group photo following their recent contest at the Farmington Training Center. The officers won the game, 5-3.

when we're not working and they say 'hi.' And we say 'hi' to them. This also gives them a chance to

After the game, participants combined for a "unified" ga-

with officers and Special Olympians on both sides. Later there was pizza and soft drinks.



Shot on goal: The action was fast and furious during the floor hockey game.

■ 'The Special Olympics kids are enjoying it, we enjoy it. It's built some good friendships.'

Bob Schulz, commander
—Farmington Public Safety Department

Mission statement

Team Farmington's floor hockey team is made up of 10 players

ages 15-25, most from Farmington or Farmington Hills, said coach Ted Stern.

The team hasn't lost a Special Olympics match in nine years but can't seem to yet defeat the Public Safety Department contingent.

Stern said the mission of Special Olympics is "to improve the social, physical and mental well-being of all athletes."

"This also helps dispel stereotypes" about the athletes in the Special Olympics, said Stern. "All we need is a chance. I think we surprise people with our skill level."

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