



Scott Bell Eldred lets her rip in the softball throw ...

Photo by Julie Cipolla

## For the fun of it—the Special Olympics

By JOYCE TOMANA  
Collegian Sports Writer

The official torch bearer circled the track as the participants recited the Olympic oath: Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

Those simple words set the scene yesterday afternoon at the Area II Special Olympics Meet at Beaver Stadium. Everyone left a winner, but not in terms of who placed first, second, or third. There was a greater prize to be won—the joy of learning, the opportunity to compete, and the chance to make friends.

Kevin Hoover, from Bald Eagle Area, ran in the 14-17 year old division of the 220 yard run and the 50 yard dash. He summed up the feelings of all the runners.

"This is fun, that's why I do it," he said. "I like meeting people. It gives me a chance to compete in something that I like."

In all Special Olympics competitions, the emphasis is not on winning. The goal is for the students to learn the basic elements of physical conditioning, to gain qualities of good sportsmanship, and to enjoy themselves.

Laura Barthmaier (8th, EEC) was one of the meet's many volunteers who came to time events, help the runners get organized, and offer encouragement to everyone.

"Physical education is a big part of their overall program and events like this are an accumulation of a lot of work," Barthmaier said.

"It's a great way for them to experience a chance for success."

Ten counties were represented in this year's meet. About 400 participants are involved, most of them between eight and twenty-one years old. The Kennedy Foundation sponsors the Special Olympics, which began in 1969 in Chicago, and have been held in this area since 1970. Ten events are included in the track and field competition: 50-yard dash, 220-yard dash, 440-yard run, 440-yard relay, pentathlon, standing long jump, high jump, and softball throw.

Volunteers work under the direction of Bill Whittaker, Area II Coordinator. Students from Rec Park 477 work as supervisors and head coaches. Dennis Corl (9th, Rec Park) supervised students from the Bald Eagle Area.

"It's a good feeling to see in their faces how much they enjoy it," Carl said. "We tell them it's cool if you win, but we don't stress it. A slap on the back or a hug after the race means a lot more."

The bulk of the coaching and direct involvement is done by those in Rec Park 475: John Harlow, Tish Newmyer, Vicki Peery, Tim Stewart, Mark Wenner, and Russ Wilson. It's a learning process for the coaches as well as the participants. They had to research the techniques of track and field and the technicalities of the events. For most of them, it

was their first experience working with the mentally handicapped.

"Working with them has given me a different outlook on their lives as a whole," said Vicki Peery (8th, IFS). "They enjoy it so much, especially the younger ones. There's such a difference from the first day we worked together. They started out a little reluctant to get involved and a little shy, but today there's no holding them back. They're all having a great time."

Training for yesterday's meet began about two months ago, building up stamina and basic understanding of the events. Official training sessions were held twice a week. But much of the work went beyond the regular sessions. Some of the coaches took students on a field trip to the fish hatchery in Pleasant Gap.

According to John Harlow (10th, Rec Park), "The work starts as a requirement for us in 475. Then we find ourselves motivated to do something extra. Now we're so much involved that it's no longer work. Knowing what it's about, I'd be here anyway—even if it wasn't part of the course."

Some participants will advance to the state finals at West Chester State College on June 2-4. "The coaches and I will select who will go to West Chester," said Whittaker. "We'll send those we think will benefit most from the trip and the clinics that will be held."



Photo by Julie Cipolla

... as Brian Yonada of Bellefonte tries his hand at the basketball shooting competition in yesterday's Special Olympics at Beaver Stadium

## Another Masters in store for Elder

HOUSTON (AP) — Lee Elder — relaxed and easy, shoes off and feet propped up in front of a TV set — won his way back into the Masters yesterday when his would-be challengers backed off and let him in with a victory in the \$200,000 Houston Open Golf Tournament.

With the schedule and pairings juggled by the rain that washed out Thursday's play, Elder had completed Sunday's double round of 36 holes with scores of 67-69 more than an hour ahead of hulking rookie George Burns, who blew a clear lead over his last seven holes and let Elder win the golf tournament in the easy comfort and solitude of the Woodlands Country Club lockerroom.

Elder had scored a crucial birdie on his final hole — the ninth since he played the final 18 in reverse order most of the time out of the range of the national television cameras — just about the time Burns was making the turn. From then on it was just a matter of how well the big guy could hang on. And Burns lost it in the stretch.

### IN CONCERT

JERRY ZOLTEN • KEN MATHIEU  
DAVID FOX • TOM WAREHAM  
AND ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN OF SILENT WAY

\$.75 for members — \$1.00 for non members

at the Hillel Foundation on Sunday May 5 at 8:00 pm

224 Locust Lane

237-2408

The Sisters of

## Chi Omega

would like to warmly welcome and congratulate  
their new initiates

Lori Drugmand

Pam Baulker

Deb DeGrazia

Trish Shaffer

Kathe O'Dea

Maribeth Devlin

Anne Williams

## Stock Reduction Sale

# 1/2 OFF

on selected paperback books  
from our own stock

NEW TITLES ADDED DAILY

SHOP EARLY

# PENN STATE BOOKSTORE

McAllister Building  
Right next to the HUB