Matthew Danaher

Sport: Swimming
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Age: 25

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?
Matthew has been swimming with Special Olympics for 14 years. He has also participated in basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, skiing, and a variety of other sports.

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?
Special Olympics has introduced Matthew to a field of new friends. It has also instilled a sense of accomplishment in him.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?
COVID was certainly an obstacle. The special recreation program at Independence Park certainly jumped into gear with virtual programming and keeping our athletes in contact and active.

4. What makes you most proud?
Matthew is most proud when he completes a task. Whether it's competing at an event or completing his chores, he delights in the accomplishment.

5. What are some other accomplishments you are proud of?
Matthew graduated from Northside Learning Center High School in 2018. He was the lead in the school play, Aladdin. He also worked as a junior coach at the park for three summers.

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?
Matthew likes to play basketball, cook, and play on his Play Station.

7. Who do you admire most and why?
Matthew is a fan of Big Time Rush. He considers himself quite a singer.

8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?
Matthew is looking forward to meeting other athletes from around the country. He is also excited about visiting Florida!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
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9. How are you preparing/training for USA Games?
Matthew swims several times a week at the park. He also swims on weekends at our summer home, which is on a lake.

10. Have you been to a World Games or USA Games before?
None

11. Are you employed? If so, where at and what's your role?
He is not currently employed.

12. Are you a currently a student? If so, where and is it a Unified Champion School?
He graduated from Northside Learning Center High School in 2018.