



Coach - Flag Football Hometown: Mt. Prospect, IL

1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

Coach since 2015. Soccer, Floor Hockey, Basketball, Flag Football, Golf, Softball, Tennis

2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

I've become friends with countless Special Olympics athletes, and that has reinforced my desire to include everyone everywhere. I invite my Special Olympics athletes to all of my social events and to come watch or coach my soccer games that I play in. And I invite my soccer friends and my family to come watch my Special Olympics games. The two worlds really enjoy when it overlaps.

3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

Finishing my college degree in order to get my full-time job was not easy for me. That was probably my biggest struggle.

4. What makes you most proud?

Seeing progress in my athletes individually or watching team concepts click. Success (in wins and losses) in close games are extremely proud moments.

5. What are some other accomplishments you are proud of?

My amateur soccer team has won an indoor national tournament and got second in an Illinois State Cup tournament as well.

6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?

The sports I take the most seriously and personally are golf and soccer. I coach Paralympic (wheelchair) bocce, wheelchair tennis, and help out with adaptive rock climbing (for people with physical disabilities, in wheelchairs, prosthetic limbs, or difficulty with one or more limbs).

7. Who do you admire most and why?

I don't really place many individuals on a pedestal. I do admire seeing when people are extremely disciplined to their physical fitness. I also find organizational skills and attention to detail very impressive when it's done at a high level by a person running a tournament, for example. Those are tougher personality traits in my opinion.



8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?

I am extremely proud to coach flag football at the USA Games. I have worked so hard in coaching many Special Olympic athletes and spent many hours hanging out and working out with them off the field/court. It feels like all of that hard work is coming back to me with this unbelievable opportunity.

9. How are you preparing/training for USA Games?

I am still finishing up my flag football season with my team. We have a couple more practices and our state tournament. Then I will brainstorm about the individuals on the Illinois team and how to best utilize everyone.

10. Have you been to a World Games or USA Games before?

I've not been to either.

11. Are you employed? If so, where at and what's your role?

I am an athletics supervisor at Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA).

12. Are you a currently a student? If so, where and is it a Unified Champion School?

I graduated.

