



**Sport: Powerlifting**  
**Hometown: Evanston, IL**  
**Age: 44**

**1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?**

I started in 2008 and have competed in powerlifting, basketball, track, flag football, softball, snowshoe, volleyball, floor hockey, bocce, bowling, and swimming. I'm a Global Messenger and a Health Messenger.

**2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?**

I made new friends with athletes and coaches. I have become stronger and more confident.

**3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?**

When I was in high school, I got hit by a car. I was in the hospital for a while and had to have surgery on my tibia and fibula because they were shattered. I had to have physical therapy for a long time. My family helped me a lot with my PT and training. All my friends and family were amazing. It's so great that I can do Special Olympics now with my leg. I'm never going to stop.

**4. What makes you most proud?**

I am very independent and I'm very proud of my niece and nephew. I'm also proud of my dog.

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

All of my sports and training my dog

**6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?**

Il like to hang out with my friends and family, go to movies, and go to the driving range.



**7. Who do you admire most and why?**

I admire my dad. He passed away in 2020. He was a great guy. We did a lot of things together like take road trips. I admire my niece and nephew as well for all they have accomplished. My niece dances and she is very good. My nephew plays the drums in his school band. I also admire my mom for all she has done for me. She has always taken such good care of me and has been so strong after losing my dad.

**8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?**

It's my first time so I'm very excited. It will also be my first time going to Disney. I'm a little nervous but I know I'm going to be good. I just want to have fun with my powerlifting teammates and other friends who are on Team Illinois.

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

I'm lifting weights when I can with my team and on my own. I go for walks with my dog when the weather is nice.

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

This is my first time.

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

I don't have a job right now.

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

I'm not a student.

