



**Sport: Unified Golf**  
**Hometown: Gardner, IL**  
**Age: 28**

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

I started Special Olympics when I was five years old. I had to stop for a while and didn't start back up until high school. I have been competing ever since. I play basketball, golf, and bowling.

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

It has given me a new outlook on life. It's also given me confidence in my ability and no one looks down on me. I was able to find lots of friends and also love and happiness.

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

I often got bullied by kids and some teachers. It tore me down and destroyed my confidence – until I transferred to a smaller school. Finding a new place to call home, talking to people, and finding my confidence again helped change the way they looked at me. I put myself around friends and other people who understood me. I couldn't overcome my problems alone. My friends, family, and good people helped me to understand my disability and to overcome my problems.

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

I'm most proud of having a loving family and having the ability to help my friends and many more with their confidence.

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

Finding a job with a boss that is willing to work with my disability

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

I love being outdoors fishing, playing street ball, wood burning, building Cornhole boxes, and playing video games. I help out with the Girl's Scouts as a volunteer.

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

I admire my coach and golf partner, Mike Malcom. He is one of the people I have the most respect for and I'm honored to call him a friend.



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

It's the biggest honor and biggest opportunity I've had in years since I've been in Special Olympics. I'll be proud to fight alongside my Team Illinois comrades and I look forward to the sites and challenges that this will bring, that way we can overcome them.

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

I've been practicing my golf swing and working on my routine to best support my teammate.

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

This is my first time participating in USA games

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

Yes I've been employed at UpCycle Products for three years.

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

Not currently. I graduated in 2012.

