

SPORTS & FITNESS

B SECTION

On Post

Soccer/Track & Field

Sign-ups for Child and Youth Services Spring Soccer are now being accepted. Children between the ages of 4 and 14 can sign up starting today. Track & Field sign-ups have also begun for children who turn 6 by May 31 and will not turn 19 before Aug. 10. Coaches are also needed for both sports.

Registration is at Fort Stewart CYS, Bldg. 443, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 767-2312 or 767-2143.

Intramural volleyball

Sign-ups have started for the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Intramural Volleyball League. Teams are allowed up to 12 players, including the coach, and units are allowed one team each.

Units that want to participate can sign up for the Stewart League. Call 767-8238 or 767-8326. Hunter units can call 352-6749.

Golf Course

Taylor's Creek Golf Course offers Senior Blitz on Thursdays with a 9 a.m. tee off.

Consultations at Newman

The Newman Physical Fitness Center now offers free personal training consultations. Consultations consist of health screenings (body fat assessments), exercise prescription and nutritional counseling.

Consultations will be given on an appointment basis only.

For more information, call 767-2771.

Marne tournaments

A 9-pin, no-tap tournament will be held the first Saturday of every month at Marne Lanes.

Sign up starts at 6:30 p.m. Bowling starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Cash prizes will be awarded. The tournament is sponsored by the Fort Stewart Women's Bowling Association.

For more information, call 767-4866.

Hunter Youth Sports

Sign-ups for T-Ball, ages 5 and 6; coach pitch, ages 7 and 8; and baseball, ages 9 - 14 are going on now. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services to participate.

Sports fees are \$20 for the first child and \$18 for each additional child in the family. Uniforms are provided.

For additional information, call 352-5708 or 352-6075.

Tae Kwon Do lessons

Tae Kwon Do is available for children and adults.

Classes are held for beginners from 5 to 6 p.m., intermediate 6 to 7 p.m. and teen and adult 7 to 8 p.m., each Tuesday and Thursday at the Fort Stewart Youth Services Center, Bldg. 7338, Austin Road, Bryan Village next to the shoppette.

The cost is \$30 per month, \$30 for uniform and \$30 for testing fee; belts are included.

For more information, call Child and Youth Services at 767-2312.

If you're interested in having your sports articles, commentaries or briefs posted in The Frontline, call 767-3440, or fax at 767-5979. Deadline is noon on Fridays.



Photos by Pfc. Emily J. Danial

David Cross, 9, Diamond Elementary student, is cheered on by his mother, Catherine Cross, and Brian Nudge, as he participates in the swimming competition at the Liberty County Special Olympics Friday at Newman Physical Fitness Center.

Special Olympics gets students involved

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

Fort Stewart hosted the annual Liberty County Special Olympics Friday at the Quick Track next to Newman Physical Fitness Center.

Students from 14 Liberty County schools and two Fort Stewart schools participated in the event.

"It takes all year to prepare for an event like this," said Command Sgt. Maj. Lou Garcia, garrison command sergeant major. "But the end result is, if you look at a child in the face who's never been able to do something like this, there's such a gratifying smile that all the effort is worth it."

Events in the Special Olympics included the softball throw, long jump, 25-meter wheelchair race, swimming competition and others. The events took place throughout the day.

John Hennessee and 8-year-old Frank Long Elementary student, said he was looking forward to winning his event.

"Then I'm going to go home and celebrate," he said with a grin.

"This kind of thing is good for the students because it gives them encour-

agement and self-esteem," said Julie Smith, Student Council sponsor and art teacher at Brittin. "When I see the looks on their faces, they're beaming, because they know they're special to us ... it gives them their golden moment."

Students ran a synthetic torch around the track to start off the games, and were met with loud applause at every turn.

Fans who gathered to watch the students compete were given booklets with pages for autographs, which the participants gladly gave, and cheers accompanied every student's performance at each event.

Volunteers from each school were present to guide the enthusiastic competitors to their events, and seemed to enjoy the games as much as the students did.

Smith was a volunteer, and said she encourages everyone to get involved and help out.

"I think the volunteers get just as much out of this as the students do," she said. "I wanted to do something for the kids, to make them feel important

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Jonathan Quick, Liberty County High School student, carries the torch to begin the Special Olympics, accompanied by Christopher Jenkins and Sandra Ospina, Friday at the Quick Track.

Hopefuls hit links for Hunter title

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

NCOIC, Hunter Public Affairs Office

Hunter Golf Club hosted its 30th annual club championship Saturday and Sunday.

A field of 32 players in two divisions vied for top honors during the two-round tournament, which included a \$150 pro shop gift certificate and a plaque.

"The (course) conditions were perfect," said Tommie McArthur, golf course manager for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. "The fairways were fast and the greens were rolling smooth."

Eddie Roberts, last year's open division winner, returned to the clubhouse at the end of the first round with a seven-over-par, three-stroke lead over David Dougherty — a previous winner of the tournament.

A second-round surge from Dougherty came up a stroke short as Roberts took the title for the second year in a row.



Three-time senior division winner Charlie Tukes goes for the bottom of the cup on the way to his fourth club championship.

In the senior division, defending champion Frank Yelton shot a nine-over-par 81, and trailed Bruce Bauman by two strokes heading to round two. Three-time champ Charlie

Tukes, who trailed by four strokes at the end of the first round, fired back with a four-over-par second round of 76 to surpass both Yelton and Bauman for his fourth championship.

"I thought I lost because I shot a 40 on the front nine (during round two)," Tukes said. "It wasn't until after the back nine ... I shot a 36 — even par ... did I realize I won."

"It was a sweet victory — I love those trophies."

Although the scores were higher than in previous years, according to McArthur, it didn't take away from the competition.

"It's usually a two-to-three man race for first place," McArthur said. "The cream of the crop definitely rose to the top."

In addition to awards for the top three finishers in each division, the winners' names will be engraved on the club championship plaques that grace the wall of Hunter Golf Club.



Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Eddie Roberts launches a 280-yard drive en route to back-to-back open division titles during the club championship at Hunter Golf Club Saturday.

OLYMPICS

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to the school. It makes me feel good.”

Garcia said Fort Stewart was an ideal place to hold the Special Olympics, because they represent “what a Soldier stands for.”

“It stands for physical fitness, encouraging each other, being healthy,” he said. “The best part is the camaraderie, and sharing, bringing the community together toward one common goal. I’m glad to be here and be a part of this.”

The elementary schools that joined in the activities of the day were Joseph Martin Elementary, Button Gwinnett Elementary, Frank Long Elementary, Jordye Bacon Elementary, Liberty Elementary, Waldo Pafford Elementary, Taylors Creek Elementary, Lyman Hall Elementary, Diamond Elementary, Brittin Elementary, Snelson Golden Middle School, Midway Middle School, Lewis Frasier Middle School, Liberty County High School, Bradwell Institute and Coastal Academy.



Lenora Scipio, 12, Snelson Golden Middle School, competes in the long jump category in the Liberty County Special Olympics Friday.



(Above) Fans cheer as Phillip Greene, 9, Waldo Pafford Elementary, prepares to compete in the softball throwing event at the Special Olympics Friday at Fort Stewart's Quick Track.

(Left) John Hennessee, 8, and Ryan Gordon, 10, from Frank Long Elementary, await the beginning of the Special Olympics games.



Karen Maxwell, 11, Brittin Elementary, competes in the softball throwing event in the Special Olympics Friday.

Newman Physical Fitness Center Aerobic Schedule

Mondays

Latino Rhythm with Carmen (weights and tubing) **7:30 to 8:30 a.m.**

Busy Feet Workout with Irma (cross training) **9 to 10 a.m.**
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Butts and Gutts with Carmen (weights and bars) **7:30 to 8:30 a.m.**

Basic Training Workout with Irma (steps, body bars, weights, abdominal work, etc.) **9 to 10 a.m.**

Cardio-Stepping **4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

Wednesdays

Caliente with Carmen (kick-boxing) **7:30 to 8:30 a.m.**

Cardio kick-boxing with Irma **9 to 10 a.m.**

Step-Kicking with Irma (cardio kick-boxing/steps) **4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

Thursdays

Basic Training Workout with Irma (Tubes, body bars, hoola-hoops, exercise balls) **9 to 10 a.m.**
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Fridays

"Master C" Workout with Carmen (Buns & thighs workout/cardio kicking) **7:30 to 8:30 a.m.**

Killer Friday with Irma (kicking, stepping, hooping and weights, etc.) **9 to 10 a.m.**
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Saturdays

Pick Your Poison with Asha **9 to 10 a.m.**

USA shooting selects Olympic Shotgun Team

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

FORT BENNING, Ga. — USA Shooting's Final Olympic Selection Match, held March 17 to 27 in Fort Benning, is finished, and the Shotgun Team that will represent the United States in this summer's Olympic Games in Athens, Greece has been chosen.

USA Shooting chooses the Olympic Team purely on a performance basis in order to get the very best shooters to represent America at the 2004 Olympic Games. For the Shotgun Team, one half of the Olympic Selection process was completed last fall on Colorado Springs' Fort Carson ranges. Athletes carry over their scores from that first selection match and add them to the scores from the final selection match in order to get their final scores and rankings.

In the first event to come to a close, it was a battle to the finish, as Collyn Loper, from Indian Springs, Ala., and U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's Staff Sgt. Joetta Dement, from Seale, Ala., were neck-and-neck throughout most of the competition. It wasn't until a tie-breaking round after the finals that Loper finally managed to defeat Dement by one target.

"That was probably one of the hardest things I'll ever do in my life," Loper said after the 25-target tie-breaking final. "I thought we would do a miss-and-out tie-breaker, but after I heard we had to do a full round, I knew I had to remain focused. I don't think I have ever had to concentrate that hard for that long. Dement was a great competitor."

The 17-year-old Loper, a junior at Oak Mountain High School, is naturally right handed. But being born blind in her right eye, forced her to train her body to shoot left, an obstacle that doesn't seem to have any effect on her shooting.

In men's trap, two-time Olympians Lance Bade, from Colorado Springs, Colo., and the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's Sgt. 1st Class Bret Erickson, from Buena Vista, Ga., crushed their opponents for two spots on the Olympic Team. There was no big battle for a spot on the men's team like there was for the women in this event. Bade and Erickson went into

the final 11 targets up on their competitors. Bade finished with a 501 total score, while Erickson finished with a 499.

"I'm feeling really comfortable with how I'm shooting right now," Bade said. "If I keep competing at this level, I not only will make the Olympic Team, I am confident I will make the medal stand at the Games."

Erickson also made a run for the men's double trap team. And although all the pressure to make the team was gone, he once again proved he was a competitor and secured his second

"That was probably one of the hardest things I'll ever do in my life."

Collyn Loper

Olympic Shotgun Team member

spot on the 2004 Olympic Shotgun Team.

"I was almost too relaxed after I made that first Team," Erickson explained after his second-day scores came back so much higher than his first days. "I forgot what I was out there to do. I am too much of a competitor to just let someone else beat me on my home range, so I knew I had to go out and shoot my game."

Glenn Eller, from Houston, remained consistent through both days of the men's double trap event, shooting a 590 total score and finishing one point on top of Erickson. At the 2000 Olympics, Eller finished in a disappointing 12th place, but looks at these 2004 Games as "another shot" for an Olympic medal. Eller took a year off college to train full time in Georgia for that precise reason.

In women's double trap, it was no surprise Kim Rhode, from El Monte, Calif., ran away with it all. Rhode, a two-time Olympic medalist, led the first day by a margin of 23, and increased her lead to 35 by the conclusion of the event. This will be Rhode's third and final women's double trap Olympic Team, considering the women's double trap event will be cut from the Olympic lineup after the 2004 Games.

Rhode won a gold in the first

Olympics the event was offered, in 1996, and took home a bronze in 2000. Rhode does hope to shoot in another women's event in 2008, but "will have to see what happens."

"Shooting is like walking for me, I don't even think about it anymore," Rhode says. "I still shoot a little skeet, but am not entirely sure what will happen after double trap is eliminated from the Olympics."

The men's skeet event was probably the most intense of the entire Olympic Trials. Leading the way into the final was Air Force Lt. Col. Bill Roy, from Colorado Springs, and the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's Sgt. 1st Class Todd Graves, from Columbus, Ga.. They had been neck-and-neck since the Fall Olympic Selection, and both seemed intent on snagging a spot on the 2004 Olympic Team.

But USAMU's Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Duloherly changed all that. Duloherly surprised everyone by coming into finals and running 25-straight. Needless to say, Duloherly, from Columbus, Ga., finished the finals on top and earned one of the spots in men's skeet. The second spot eventually went to Graves, who after two tie-breaking rounds, just squeezed by Roy to round out the men's Olympic Team.

Connie Smotek, from Lyons, Texas, won with a fairly painless victory in the women's skeet event. Smotek's next closest competitor, Haley Dunn, from Eddysville, Iowa, was three targets behind throughout most of the Trials. Smotek finished five targets ahead of Dunn. Athens marks Smotek's second Olympic Games. Her first were in 1992 where she finished 25th.

"I just love shooting," Smotek said after she qualified for the 2004 Olympic Team. "I think that is the reason I can continue to shoot at this level for so long. I love being on the range and I love to compete. I would do it forever—if I could."

The results from Rifle, Pistol and Running Targets' Final Olympic Selection Match will be released in May, where shooters will vie for the remaining qualifying spots on the 2004 Olympic Shooting Team.

For more information, log on to www.usashooting.org, or email USA Shooting's media director at sara.greenlee@usashooting.org.