

WEST LICKING SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010 – 2011



**In Memory
Dustin Scott**

OUR FALLEN WARRIOR

Dustin Scott is our cover picture for the fall-winter 2010-11. Sadly Dustin was taken from us in May. In memory of our missing Warrior our basketball teams will wear ribbons bearing the number 44 on our team jerseys this season. Our tribute to this fine young man is the following editorial by Mike Sussman. It appeared in the Newark Advocate and the Pataskala Standard this past summer. Rest in peace our fine Warrior. We shall miss you.

A Fallen Warrior - His smile was infectious. The first time I met Dustin he was a 5'4" fifteen year old. He spoke in sort of a guttural monotone. He was always happy. Dustin's first love was basketball but he excelled in track. He was part of every team for West Licking Special Olympics Warriors. He ran the 100-meter dash in track and competed in various other events. Over the years he won several medals.

Dustin was the first to the lanes during our bowling month. He never cared where he finished in a competition. It was the meet or game that garnered his delight. He began his basketball career with the Warriors playing on our only team, an adult Division III team. The adult team had good results as the years rolled on. Dustin did not get a lot of playing time. In our fifth season, 2007-08, our School Age Team began play and he moved to that team where he got more playing time.

As much as Dustin tried he never got the hang of the whole experience. He could rebound but then got confused as moving the ball down court became the next logical step. If he got the ball on offense, he had trouble figuring out where to pass. He was a good shooter. The years rolled on and Dustin's smile only grew wider. He loved the bus rides to away games. He sat across from me in the first row. He could look out the front window of the 50 passenger cruiser.

In the 2009-10 season we formed our third team, the Unified White Team. It is coached by our player of the year in 2008-09 who happens to be Dustin's older stepbrother Chris.

The Unified team plays with two interns and three Special Olympians. The interns, accomplished basketball players, help move the ball. They are not allowed to shoot or rebound. Dustin had found a home. He was our best player in many games. He began to rebound, dribble the court without traveling and shoot when prudent. He scored 16 points against the Fairfield Chiefs at Forest Rose School in Lancaster on February 1, 2010. We lost 45-36 but no one noticed. Dustin was overjoyed.

Early in April during track practice we noticed Dustin's color had turned yellow. He was jaundiced and his liver began failing. In May a new liver was found and a successful transplant followed. In mid-May Dustin began going downhill quickly and was on life support by soon after. He died on May 26, 2010 less than sixty days after his twenty-first birthday. Dustin packed more happiness into his twenty-one years than many have in much longer lives.

TO BECOME A SPONSOR or CONTINUE YOUR SPONSORSHIP mail contributions (checks payable to West Licking Special Olympics) to *West Licking Special Olympics, % Mike Sussman, 371 Meadow Way SW, Pataskala, OH 43062.*

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BASKETBALL SEASON IS HERE

Gold Team (Adult Age) –Year Eight----Area 6 Adult Division III

Once again West Licking will field three teams for the 2010-11 season. Our adult team under the watchful eye of **Coach Glenn Scott** is our strongest ever. Coach Scott enters his fourth season with a combined record of 23-11, .676 winning percentage. Glenn is assisted by **Jeremy Wermter** and **Tirrell Jackson**.

6'3" center **Shawn Lemmerhirt**, last year's top scorer is back for his third year. The glue of this team is in the hands of 5'8' point guard, **Nate DeLawder**. Nate missed last season due to night shift employment but is back on day shift and the Warriors are excited. Brother, 6'0' **Matt DeLawder**, returns for his seventh year as a top rebounder and reliable scorer. First year player 6'1' **Keith Neece** may be the missing piece of the basketball puzzle to lead us to a state tournament berth. **Adam Hare**, 6' 2" with his patented three-point shooting and **Noah Hulse** return for their eighth year with our program. Noah's personality and team spirit is a special gift and contribution to our team. Other returning eight year veterans are tenacious guard, **Dejan Grozdic**; **Brad Hobbs** with a great mid range set shot; **Jay Emmenegger**, still fighting prior foot surgeries but he has a great outside shot and **Mike Brazil** who amazes us with his tenacity on defense.

Jay Hodge will continue to contribute minutes in his seventh year. **Sean Engle**, up last year from the School Age squad, continues to add important minutes off the bench. **Judd Whelen**, a strong 5' 11', returns to us after a year absence due to illness. He is a great team player and a top rebounder and the potential fifth starter for Coach Glenn.

SCHEDULE - Warriors Gold (Adult)

Home Floor - Hebron Elementary-709 Deacon Street Hebron

Home Games @7:00 PM

December 6		Delaware	
December 13		Lancaster	
December 20		Upper Arlington	
December 22	AT	Franklin Flyers III	6:30PM 1 st half of DH
January 4	AT	Columbus Comets Green	— 7:00PM
January 10	AT	Lancaster	6:30PM
January 19	AT	Zanesville	
January 24		Columbus Comets Green	
February 5	AT	Upper Arlington	2 nd half of DH about 8:00PM
February 7		Zanesville	
February 14		Franklin Flyers III	
Other dates		TBA	

Black Team (School Age) — Year Four-----Area 6 School Age Division II

Jim Hartley returns for his fourth year as the only coach the School Age Team has ever had. He is assisted by **Don Skube** and **Fred Stumbo**. Jim's record is balanced by the fact that his team averaged 5'5' and 14 years old in his first three years. Our opponents averaged 6'0' and age 18. Even against these numbers, Jim taught his team

fundamentals, team play, and how to win some games against all odds. Jim's record is 6-17, a winning percentage of .261. No one in Special Olympics basketball could have done better against the tough schedule the Warriors played. Jim's team managed to beat a veteran Division IV Adult Team in year two.

Bryce Hartley, a prolific scorer returns at 100%. He suffered a serious injury last season that kept him off the floor for half of the games. **Greg Kuhnimhof** enters his fifth season. He spent one year on the adult team before the school age team began playing. Greg will continue at the point as one of the best point guards in the division. Sharpshooting **Jeremiah Malone** is back for his fifth season with one year spent on the adult team. **Heather Hinsdale** is a six year veteran at West Licking. Her defensive skills are excellent. **Lawrence Anderson** was a welcome surprise in his first year. He owned the area under the basket in many games. His scoring and rebounding were a big plus for the team.

Charlie Stumbo is always a factor on offense and defense. Brother **Greg Stumbo** is the team's youngest and one of its most tenacious members. **Ian Bussey** keeps on growing and will be a factor in the paint. **Austin Allen** is back up from the Unified Team and will be a strong candidate for close in shooting and rebounding. His 6'3' height is a plus for the team. **Daniel Skube** plans to spend time in the paint as a prolific rebounder. **Jared Wierather** had some moments of great play in his first year. Coach Jim is planning more playing time for Jared. The team recently added **Gian Maruca**. Gian just moved to Licking County from the Westland area of Columbus. He has some SO basketball experience.

SCHEDULE - Warriors Black (School Age) (DH – notes double header)

Home Floor - Etna Elementary-8500 Columbia Road Pataskala Home Games 7:00PM

December 2	Upper Arlington	
December 8 AT	Columbus Comets	7:00PM
December 16 AT	Delaware	7:00PM
December 22 AT	DH-Franklin Flyers IV	2 nd half of DH about 7:45PM
January 11	Columbus Comets	
February 1	West Licking White	
February 5 AT	DH-Upper Arlington	6:30PM 1 st half of DH
February 9 AT	Hilliard	7:00PM
February 15	Franklin Flyers IV	
February 24 AT	West Licking White	

Unified White Team—Year Two---No Classification at this time

West Licking Special Olympics took a bold step last year by advancing our theory of participation to many players that would have seen only a few minutes of action on our other teams. These players are in the learning stage of basketball but deserve a chance to play at least an eight minute quarter. We have three Unified players on the floor with two additional accomplished players acting as floor coaches. The floor coaches can assist in bringing the ball up court and passing. They cannot shoot or rebound. If a floor coach is fouled, the nearest Unified player shoots the free throws.

This concept became a fan favorite with SRO crowds for each home or away game. We have encouraged four other groups in Central Ohio to initiate teams. Chris Kuhnimhof coached last year. This season **Roger Legg** takes over as head coach. The games are called by regular referees and are played as all other SO games with four 8 minute quarters.

I urge you to attend a Unified game this season. These players have made some amazing improvement in year one. I will discuss this team in more detail in our Spring –Summer Newsletter in May of 2011. Last year’s record was 2-5.

Returning players include : **David Barns, Will O’Brien, Matt Hyden, Trish Hannah, Maryann Thompson, Ben Legg,** and **Jamie Boyce.** New players include **Cory Ryan** and **Kaliha Roane.**

SCHEDULE Warriors White (Unified)

Home Floor - Licking Heights North Elementary, 6507 Summit Rd. Pataskala
Home Games 7:00PM

December 9	Lancaster
December 16	Reynoldsburg
January 6	Reynoldsburg (BOTH Reynoldsburg games are HOME @Licking Heights)
January 20 AT	Lancaster
February 1 AT	West Licking Black
February 24	West Licking Black

CHEERLEADING



Cheerleading Coach Vici Hodge begins her fifth year as coach. Numbers are down this year due to the commitment necessary and the different practice nights. Our cheerleaders will be appearing at more than 25 games this season. They do an awesome job in leading the crowd in cheers and entertaining us with their half-time dance routines. Miranda Berry, Stacey Emswiler, Maria Herrera, Bethany Hindsdale, and Chelsea Umland will comprise this year’s squad.

Bowling

Bowling season was cut short by a number of other activities including the track and power lifting awards cookout. We bowled two nights in August at Park Lanes and Valley Lanes in Newark. We had an average of twenty-five participants. Next year we will be bowling on three Thursdays in August.

Dance

On Saturday November 13, 2010 West Licking Special Olympics sponsored its first ever fall dance. What a hit! The Olympians danced the night away and want to do it again! The event was held at The Summit Lion’s Club. The crowd numbered more than fifty. DJ Jim James served as MC. We are planning a Spring Dance after basketball season.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS - for our away basketball games:

Franklin Flyers: From Route 310 and I 70, turn right on I 70 toward Columbus. Exit at Hamilton Road. Turn left at Hamilton Road, continue on Hamilton past Eastland and I 270. After you pass the Groveport Schools, the next major intersection is Bixby Road. Turn Right on Bixby to Living Skills Center approximately ¼ mile on right. Travel time is 35 minutes

Delaware: From Route 310 and I 70, turn right toward Columbus, Exit North toward Cleveland on I 270. Stay on I 270 to Route 23 North Exit. Turn right toward Delaware. Stay on Route 23 to William Street Exit in Delaware, turn left on William Street (Route 36). Willis Middle School is on the right about ½ mile. Travel Time is 65 minutes. Note: Travel time can vary significantly based on traffic.

Columbus Comets School Age: From Route 310 and I 70, turn right toward Columbus, stay on I 70 to downtown Columbus. Exit at I-71 North turn right toward Cleveland. Exit I 71 at Route 161 Dublin Granville Road. Turn right on to Route 161, stay on 161 to the intersection with Karl Road. Turn right on Karl to Woodward Middle School on right at 5151 Karl Road. Travel Time 50 minutes. Travel may be 10 minutes faster if traffic is normal.

Columbus Comets ADULT TEAM: From Route 310 and I 70 turn right toward Columbus. Exit I 70 at James Road, turn right on James. Take James Road to East Main Street, turn right on Main about three blocks to Weyant Avenue, turn left on Weyant. You will pass Eastmoor Academy HS, turn left on Medway to School formerly Eastmoor MS. Travel Time is 30 minutes.

Lancaster All Teams; From Route 310 and I 70 turn left on I 70 toward Buckeye Lake. Exit I 70 at Route 37 (Granville Lancaster exit). Turn right on Route 37, stay on route 37 to Forest Rose School just North of OU Lancaster. Forest Rose is on the left, access is just beyond the school. Travel time is 40 minutes. Seating is limited so plan to arrive early.

Zanesville: From Route 310 and I 70 turn left on I 70 heading east to Zanesville. Take the first Zanesville exit (State Street) jog on street to State St. to Adair (SR146) Left on Adair about ½ mile to Starlight School. (turn left on Bussmer Lane into parking lot.) The school is on the left across just before Ohio University Zanesville Branch. Seating is LIMITED – arrive early.

Upper Arlington: From Route 310 and I 70 turn right toward Columbus. Stay on I 70 through downtown Columbus Exit Left to Route 315 North. Stay on Route 315 to Lane Avenue exit. Turn left on Lane Ave and continue on Lane to Northwest Blvd. intersection. Turn right on Northwest Blvd to Ridgeview. Turn right on Ridgeview-the school is on the left. There are several gyms in Upper Arlington HS. Ask directions inside the building. Travel Time 40 minutes, traffic should be light on Saturday evening.

Hilliard location was not available at press time. Directions will be available before February 9th game.

BUS SERVICE SCHEDULE This season all bus service to away games will leave from the Amanda Hills Warehouse located at 9756 National Road (Route 40). This location is ¼ mile east of the intersection of SR 310 and SR 40. This is the same location we used at the end of last season. Please park headed toward National Road.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Departure Time</u>
12/8	Black	Woodward Park MS	5:45PM
12/16	Black	Delaware Willis MS	5:30PM
12/22 *DH	Black & Gold	Bixby Skills Center	5:30PM
1/4/11	Gold	Eastmoor Middle School	6:00PM
1/10/11	Gold	Forest Rose School	5:30PM
1/16/11	White	Forest Rose School	5:30PM
1/19/11	Gold	Zanesville Starlight School	5:30PM
2/5/11 *DH	Black & Gold	Upper Arlington HS	5:15PM
2/15/11	Black	Hilliard	5:30PM
Additional Games including tournaments		TBA	*DH denotes a Doubleheader

TRACK and FIELD 2010

West Licking's track team had another successful season in 2010. Our runners and throwers competed in a Kick Off meet at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware in April. After that meet it was on to Denison University, and Whetstone High School in Columbus for The Columbus Sports Classic. Those meets were followed by the Amanda Games and the regular season Fun Meet at the Delaware Invitational.

The State Finals (Summer Games) were contested at the Ohio State University on the last weekend in June. We call most of the early meets qualifying meets. Qualifying in Special Olympics means that each participant is put into a state group that is based on age group first and then performance based. All runners qualify. Because of the unique nature of Special Olympics, competitors are in closely contested groups. This makes the state competition a great thrill for all participants. Track is coached by Jim Hartley, Natalie Nash, Glenn Scott, Jeremy Wermter (Co-Head Coach), Andrea Whitt (Co-Head Coach), and Shawn Whitt.

POWER LIFTING

Power Lifting is a fast growing sport in Special Olympics. West Licking has always had a well stocked program. Because of outstanding coaching under head coach Jim Foor our program is at its all time best. Jim is assisted by Tyler Cruikshank, Cameron Fouty, Emily Phillips, and Justin Thomes. The lifters appeared at Denison, Columbus Whetstone, and Delaware prior to the State Finals (summer games) at the Ohio State University. (not all meets have power lifting)

TRACK & POWER LIFTING AWARDS

Our awards event this season was held at Beechwood Trails Pool. The swim party and cookout were such a huge success that it will become an annual event for the group. The athletes and their families enjoyed the food and camaraderie and certainly had fun in the pool splashing and laughing the night away.

THE RESULTS: Track & Power Lifting

Austin Allen:	50M Run	10.40	Silver Medal
	Softball Throw	13.81	Fourth Place
Lawrence Anderson:	Bench Press	70.125	Bronze Medal
	Dead Lift	168.3	Silver Medal
	Combination	238.425	Bronze Medal
David Barns	Softball Throw	9.99	Bronze Medals
	100M Run	23.90	Bronze Medal
Chris Boyer	Softball Throw	13.9	Bronze Medal
	100M Run	23.10	Fifth Place
Alex Bussey	200M Run	34.20	Silver Medal
	Softball Throw	21.47	Fourth Place
Nate DeLawder	400M Run	1.27:70	Fifth Place
	4 X 100	1.03:90	Silver Medal
	Softball Throw	40:19	Fourth Place
Jay Emmenegger	Bench Press	110.519	Bronze Medal
	Dead Lift	161.298	Fifth Place
	Combination	271.817	Fourth Place

TRACK & FIELD – scenes from our summer 2010 season



Track & Power Lifting Results cont'd

Sean Engle	Softball Throw	16.10	Silver Medal
	100M Dash	18.50	Sixth Place
Adam Hare	Softball Throw	25.84	Fourth Place
	100M Run	17.9	Sixth Place
Bryce Hartley	Softball Throw	36.66	Bronze Medal
	100M Run	18.20	Fourth Place
	4 X 100 Relay	1.03:90	Silver Medal
Maria Herrera	4 X 100 Relay	1.19:80	Fourth Place
	100M Run	17.90	Silver Medal
Heather Hinsdale	4 X 100 Relay	1.19:80	Silver Medal
	100M Run	19.80	Silver Medal
Brad Hobbs	Combination	149.704	Fourth Place
	Dead Lift	149.704	Bronze Medal
Jay Hodge	Combination	241.200	Bronze Medal
	Dead Lift	147.936	Bronze Medal
	Bench Press	93.264	Bronze Medal
Noah Hulse	Softball Throw	11.64	Sixth Place
	200M Run	1.01	Bronze Medal
Benjamin Legg	Softball Throw	13.37	Gold Medal
	100M Run	18.40	Bronze Medal
Shawn Lemmerhirt	Running Lo. Jump	3.34	Bronze Medal
	200M Run	33.90	Silver Medal
	4 X 100 Relay	1.03:90	Silver Medal
Jim Modesitt	Dead Lift	167.730	Bronze Medal
	Combination	240.413	Silver Medal
	Bench Press	72.683	Silver Medal
Will O'Brien	100M Walk	1.08	Sixth Place
	Softball Throw	6.59	Bronze Medal
Jackie Overmyer	4 X 100 Relay	1.19:80	Fourth Place
Malayna Pelegreen	Softball Throw	14.40	Bronze Medal
	100M Run	20.70	Fourth Place
Daniel Skube	Softball Throw	19.29	Fourth Place
	50M Run	13.10	Fifth Place
Charlie Stumbo	Softball Throw	42.10	Gold Medal
	100M Run	15.50	Third Place
	4 X 100 Relay	1.03:90	Silver Medal
Mary Ann Thompson	100M Run	20.90	Bronze Medal
Elizabeth Waltz	Softball Throw	9.10	Bronze Medal
	4 x 100 Relay	1.19:80	Fourth Place
	100M Run	21.40	Sixth Place
Judd Whelen	Dead Lift	213.786	Gold Medal
	Combination	300.456	Gold Medal
	Bench Press	86.670	Fifth Place

SUMMARY	No of Participants	Twenty-Seven
Age Distribution	10-15	10
	16-20	7
	20-25	4
	26-29	4
	30 and over	2

PRESS TIME UPDATE - BASKETBALL

The Adult GOLD team started fast with a big win over Delaware on December 6th at Hebron. When the final whistle sounded it was Warriors Gold 48 and Delaware 20.

The School Age BLACK team split its first two games. On December 2nd the Warriors fell to a veteran Upper Arlington team in a 43-42 heartbreaker. On December 8th the team hit the road to take on the Columbus Comets at Woodward Middle School. It was a first ever victory over the Comets 57-31.

GO WARRIORS!!!

The West Licking Special Olympics newsletter is published twice a year in May and December.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Deb Hobbs Coordinator

Mike Sussman Treasurer

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BASKETBALL BONANZA



PLEASE NOTE – game schedules change based on weather and school closings. PLEASE check to see if the schedule has changed before you make the drive to the games by calling 740-927-6391 or 740-398-5121!!