

## Special Olympics Spring Games Held Friday, May 10...Best Day Ever!

"Best Day Ever" describes the 2019 Special Olympics Spring Games hosted by Anson Middle School on Wednesday, May 1. Approximately 65 athletes (8 years and older) and young athletes (less than 8 years) represented elementary schools, Anson Middle School and Anson High School.

Each athlete was paired with a student buddy from the Anson Middle School seventh and eighth grade Beta Club and several Occupational Course of Study students from Anson High School. This was the first time that student buddies from Anson Middle experienced the opportunity to serve in this volunteer role. Words cannot describe their excitement and level of maturity displayed throughout the Games.

Opening Ceremonies began in the school gymnasium. Highlights were: the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the National Anthem played by the Anson Middle Band; Greetings by Superintendent Michael Freeman; Special Olympics Prayer by EC Director Nancy Diggs; Athlete's Oath by Mikayla Willoughby; and the 2019 Games Opening by EC Teacher Nelson Rushing. The Torch Walk was led by Detective Josh Beam of the Anson County Sheriff's Office with a representative athlete from each school following. The Anson Middle School Band under the direction of Mr. Eric Howell accompanied by the Anson High Varsity Cheerleaders (Mrs. Kristie McCollum, Coach) kicked off the Games before going to the field for Track and Field competitions. Community volunteer Mr. Kevin Tucker served as the Games Announcer.

After the Games each athlete and buddy returned to the announcement of awards and the draping of medals. Closing Ceremonies ended with a victory lap by Sheriff Landric Reid and Commissioner Vance Sturdivant. Bagged lunches were prepared by Anson Middle School Child Nutrition staff and enjoyed by all. The athletes were then transported back to their schools. Best Day Ever!

Special thanks to Anson County Schools Superintendent Michael Freeman and executive leadership; Mrs. Danielle Blount, AMS Principal; Mr. John Martin, AMS Athletic Director/Assistant Principal; Mrs. Tammy Horne, AMS Beta Club Advisor; Dr. Holly Stegall of Monroe (who donated time for all new and renewed medicals); Mary Kay Woods, School Nurse/Special Olympics Medicals Coordinator and all school nurses/social workers; Mr. Corey Ross, Transportation Director and designated bus drivers: Mr. Kyle Davis, Ms. Ina McLendon, Mrs. Stephana Spencer; Mrs. Kaye Edwards and Child Nutrition Staff; Mr. Melvin Davis and Mr. Brian Gathings of Maintenance; Anson County Sheriff's Office and Wadesboro Police Department; Anson County Board of Education; Commissioner Vance Sturdivant; civic and community agencies: Anson Rescue and Anson EMS; Anson County Parks and Recreation; the Anson Record, the Express Newspaper; ACS Exceptional Children staff; program participants, principals, athletes, buddies, coaches, parents and community volunteers. Bottled water donations were provided by the ACS Superintendent's Office. Sponsor volunteer and monetary donations were made by the Wadesboro Civitan Club.

AHS athlete, David Tamura will represent Anson County at the Special Olympics Summer Games in Raleigh May 31 through June 2. Go David!

### RESULTS

\*Athletes were represented from the following Schools: Ansonville Elementary, Lilesville Elementary, Morven Elementary, Peachland-Polkton Elementary, Wadesboro Elementary, Wadesboro Primary, Anson High and Anson Middle.

#### 25M Race (Males) Ages: 8-11

Heat 1 - Noah Steele: 1st; James Steele: 2nd; Dallas Lilly: 3rd  
 Heat 2 - Jaylen Maye: 1st; JerMyrion Cash: 2nd; Tikeem Gaddy: 3rd  
 Heat 3 - Joey Easterling: 1st; Jermiah Davis: 2nd; Gregory Helms: 3rd  
 Heat 4 - Tyreon Baker: 1st; Zachary Blankenship: 2nd; Jaylen Moses: 3rd  
 Heat 5 - Josiah Henry: 1st; Aiden Beam: 2nd; Damari Leak: 3rd  
 Heat 6 - Jordan Robinson: 1st; Elijah Gaddy: 2nd; Daishawn Gaddy: 3rd  
 Heat 7 - Cameron Eddins: 1st; Stephen Ricketts: 2nd; Jacob Lang: 3rd

#### Standing Long Jump (Females) Ages 8-11

Heat 1 - Marie Harper: 1st; Nazyia Holloway: 2nd; Emma Power: 3rd  
 Heat 2 - Aniya Gaddy: 1st; Zamyia Butler: 2nd; Leilah Davis: 3rd  
 Heat 3 - Helena McRoyal: 1st; Tashiannah Henry: 2nd; Destinie Baldwin: 3rd

#### STANDING LONG JUMP (FEMALES) 12-17 \*Combined

Heat 1 - Akia Thomas: 1st; Carla Power: 2nd; Mikayla Willoughby: 3rd; Safahari Byrd: 4th

#### Standing Long Jump (Males) Ages: 12-15

Heat 1 - Tyrese Walls: 1st; Justin Morton: 2nd; Christopher Ramos-Small: 3rd  
 Heat 2 - Jaquavian Davis: 1st; Quashawn Byrd: 2nd; Travon Edgeston: 3rd; Coleman Burr: 4th  
 Heat 3 - Jaylyn Lisenby: 1st; Damarian Edgeston: 2nd (Tied); Keivon Pemberton: 2nd (Tied); Dashawn Rorie: 3rd

#### Standing Long Jump (Males) Ages 16-22

Heat 1 - Jahiem Willoughby: 1st; Deionta Sturdivant: 2nd; James Harris: 3rd; Jamie Crawford: 4th  
 Heat 2 - David Tamura: 1st; Noah Ratliff: 2nd; Joshua Wiggins: 3rd; Robert Nadeem: 4th

#### Softball Throw (Females) Ages 8-11

Heat 1 - Marie Harper: 1st; Emma Power: 2nd; Nazyia Holloway: 3rd  
 Heat 2 - Zamyia Butler: 1st; Leilah Davis: 2nd; Aniya Gaddy: 3rd  
 Heat 3 - Destinie Baldwin: 1st; Helena McRoyal: 2nd; Tashiannah Henry: 3rd

#### Softball Throw (Females) Ages 12-17 \*Combined

Heat 1 - Akia Thomas: 1st; Carla Power: 2nd; Mikayla Willoughby: 3rd; Safahari Byrd: 4th

#### Softball Throw (Males) Ages 8-11

Heat 1 - Joey Easterling: 1st; Jermiah Davis: 2nd; Noah Colson: 3rd; Gregory Helms: 4th  
 Heat 2 - Cameron Eddins: 1st; Tikeem Gaddy: 2nd; Jaylen Maye: 3rd; JerMyrion Cash: 4th  
 Heat 3 - Daishawn Gaddy: 1st; Jaylen Moses: 2nd; Elijah Gaddy: 3rd; Stephen Ricketts: 4th  
 Heat 4 - Jaylyn Lisenby: 1st; Tyreon Baker: 2nd; Jordan Robinson: 3rd; Zachary Blankenship: 4th  
 Heat 5 - Damari Leak: 1st; Aiden Beam: 2nd; Josiah Henry: 3rd; Jasir Sadler: 4th

#### Softball Throw (Males) Ages 12-15

Heat 1 - Issac Abee: 1st (Tied); Dallas Lilly: 1st (Tied); James Steele: 2nd; Quashawn Byrd: 3rd  
 Heat 2 - Keivon Pemberton: 1st; Travon Edgeston: 2nd; Jacob Lang: 3rd; Justin Morton: 4th  
 Heat 3 - Tyrese Walls: 1st; Damarian Edgeston: 2nd; Christopher Ramos-Small: 3rd  
 Heat 4 - Coleman Burr: 1st; Dashawn Rorie: 2nd; Jaquavian Davis: 3rd

#### Softball Throw (Males) Ages 16-22

Heat 1 - Deionta Sturdivant: 1st; Jahiem Willoughby: 2nd; James Harris: 3rd  
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#### Young Athletes (Ages 2-7) and Motor Activities \*Combined Ages

Dequarius Melton, Selena Sturdivant, Tanasia Barbour, Hunter Jordan, Jacob Phillips

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