

Special Olympics Kansas

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Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

DATE: June 15, 2016
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Leora Kennedy Selected as Most Inspirational Athlete Special Olympics Kansas Summer Games 2016

Mission, KS.—Every year Special Olympics Kansas recognizes a Most Inspirational Athlete at Summer Games in Wichita, Kan. This award is not just about competing well in events, but it is about being positive and encouraging others, both on and off the field. This year, Leora Kennedy, a member of the Dodge City Dodgers, received the award. She was selected from over 1300 athletes at the games.

In addition to competing in basketball, bowling and multiple track and field events, Kennedy acts as a huge cheerleader for her teammates and classmates. After having surgery earlier this year, she still managed to support her school's basketball team at their games, even while she was in a cast. She credits her mother with teaching her cheerleading skills and being her biggest supporter.

Some of Kennedy's teammates said she is always smiling, loves to laugh, has a bubbly personality and is competitive but focuses more on enjoying her participation in the sports she plays.

"Leora is eager to practice and works hard," Ron Just, her coach, said. "She always tries to do what coaches ask her to do. She treats her teammates with respect and is a very coachable athlete."

Off the field, Kennedy participates in the Young Life Ministry Club at her school and enjoys attending events.

At the Summer Games of 2017, Kennedy will have the honor of lighting the torch to kick off the games, along with the officers of the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

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