

Special Olympics Kansas

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Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Donna Zimmerman
PHONE: 913.236.9290 ext. 112
E-MAIL: pr@kssso.org

Michael Bottom Selected as Most Inspirational Athlete At State Basketball /Cheerleading Tournament by Special Olympics Kansas

Mission, Kan.- Every year Special Olympics Kansas recognizes an athlete as the most inspirational at the annual State Basketball tournament. The award, named in honor of former athlete Gary Samuels, is presented to an athlete who exhibits teamwork, support and enthusiasm for their game. Last week, Hutchison Reno County Hawks' athlete Michael Bottom was chosen as the winner of this prestigious award. Bottom was chosen from over 1200 athletes at the competition

Lovingly known as "Money Mike" by teammates and coaches, Bottom is a member of the Hutchison Reno County Hawks. He has a positive attitude and sets the example of a team player. He inspires others and has grown as a leader within the team. In his nine years with Special Olympics, he has been involved in bowling, track and field, volleyball, basketball and, his favorite, tennis.

"Michael is dedicated to Special Olympics," said a friend. "He is a strong-willed gentleman who doesn't let his disability get him down and is always willing to participate and help in any way possible."

Bottom is most proud of graduating high school and finding a job. Right out of high school, he found a job as a host at Applebee's where he has worked ever since. The traits he possesses, such as determination and reliability, have led him to many awards and achievements: Volunteer Recognition Awards from the Salvation Army where he volunteers, Applebee's awards for reliability and customer service, being selected as a featured employee through vocational rehab and receiving a Citizenship award in 8th grade.

Bottom has been selected to compete in the 2015 World Games for Special Olympics USA in Los Angeles for tennis. Bottom stated, "I am very excited to get the opportunity to compete at this level, to represent my team, my state and my country!"

Energized by the pride and power of teamwork, Special Olympics Kansas provides individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to be an athlete...and more...through acceptance, inclusion, physical fitness, health and nutrition programs and leadership development.

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