

# Special Olympics Kansas

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**Special  
Olympics**  
Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CASEY HOSTETLER OF KANSAS NAMED BIG 12 SPECIAL OLYMPICS FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

Mission, KS -- The Big 12 Conference announced their 2017-2018 Special Olympics Athletes of the Year. This year's winners are Casey Hostetler of Kansas and Harrison Miller of West Virginia.

Each season two athletes are selected among the states in the Big 12 footprint for their outstanding participation in and avocation of Special Olympics.

Casey Hostetler was born with congenital femoral anteversion, which meant her legs were turned inward, so much that she tripped over her own feet. She had surgery when she was 11 years old, which required doctors to cut her legs above the knees and rotate her lower legs so her feet were straight. She spent 6 weeks in a wheelchair and 3 more weeks on crutches. She now deals with plates and screws in her legs and setting off metal detectors!

From a wheelchair to athlete, Casey is a world champion tennis player and snow shoer! She attended the 2009 World Games in Idaho and won 2 silver medals in show shoeing, and at the 2015 World Games in Los Angeles she competed in tennis and won a silver and bronze. Next for her is the 2018 USA Games in Seattle where she will compete in tennis.

In addition to sports, Casey volunteers with the ARC of Sedgwick County helping on clean-up and work days that includes brushing horses and painting fences. She enjoys rodeo and has won Best All Around Cowgirl at Parsons Rodeo. In equestrian, she competes in barrel racing, pole bending, keyhole and flag race.

Casey works full-time at Dillons, her favorite color is blue, she loves popcorn and her favorite team is the KU Men's Basketball team. She competes in 9 sports with Special Olympics Kansas, has done the Polar Plunge with her good friend, Det. Erin Wannow of Sedgwick County Sheriff's Agency. Casey is always there cheering and supporting and encouraging not only her team mates but all the athletes. She loves to see others succeed even if they do better than her.

Casey and Harrison will be honored at the Big 12 Football Championship Game in Dallas on December 2 and receive commemorative rings in an on-field presentation during the championship game.

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