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Special Olympics Fall Games Attract Vocal Crowds

Kevin Wright of Derry, a member of the Greater Derry Timberwolves team, prepares for his play during the Sept. 18 New Hampshire Special Olympics Fall Games event held at Park Place Lanes in Windham.

APRIL GUILMET
NUTFIELD NEWS

It was a day of laughter and good-spirited competition.

On Saturday, Granite State athletes with special needs in eight communities competed in the 17th annual Special Olympics Fall Games, with programs held in Hudson, Berlin, Concord, Keene, Manchester, Nashua, Portsmouth and Windham.

Statewide, over 800 athletes competed in bowling, cross country running, volleyball and cycling.

A bowling competition at Park Place Lanes in Windham drew about 50 local athletes from the Derry Recreation Timberwolves and Pinkerton Academy teams.

According to Derry Recreation director Eric Bodenrader, most of the athletes are post-high school age, ranging in age from 20 to 60 years.

Chester team member Virginia Falabella read the Special Olympics oath during the opening ceremonies.

Once the fall games are completed, practices are ongoing for the winter games in March, Bodenrader said. This year's winter games will be held at Waterville Valley.

Members of the Derry Recreation Timberwolves are: Adam Rapsom, Alicia Crawford, Carolyn Avola, Christine Rieger, Clint Barry, Courtney Sarantis, Curtis Boles, Dan Petrin, Darren Roberts, Derek Truscello, Donald Burgess Jr., Donald Metcalf, Erika Goldsby, Gail Wilson, James Towle, Jennifer Dabrowski, Jessica Spencer, Julia Carmody, Ken Copeland, Kerry Morency, Kevin Wright, Nathaniel Thulin, Rebecca Heinrick, Shawn Regan and Virginia Falabella.

Members of the Pinkerton Academy team are: Amanda Fleming, Andy Wood, Arthur McWade, Brandon Joyal, Brandon Rugg, Brian Miller, Casey McCoole, Dave Weaver, Evan O'Sullivan, Fawn Stuart, James Leathe, Jessica Cafazzo, Joe Gesel, Johanna Vasquez, Jonathan Buck, Jonathan White, Kyle Adams, Mallory Bonneau, Michael Ryan, Michael Siragusa, Neal Remillard, Nick Previe, Phillip Celeste, Robyn Lyn Ray and William Gaffney.