

AAASP Report

OFF THE SIDELINES - INTO THE GAME

The AAASP Report is published as a public service by the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 2

GHSA & AAASP Make History Alliance Opens Door For More Georgia Students

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) made an announcement of historic significance, revealing a first-of-its-kind alliance with the Georgia High School Association (GHSA). The announcement took place in Atlanta at Centennial Olympic Park in Paralympic Plaza on October 30, 2001, as the wrap-up to the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities "Making a Difference Discovery Tour."

In naming AAASP as the sanctioning and governing body of athletics for Georgia's physically disabled and visually impaired students in GHSA member schools, the GHSA will

Dr. Ralph Swearngin, GHSA Executive Director said, "For years, the Georgia High School Association has promoted the idea that competitive activities afford students unlimited opportunities to learn lifelong lessons every bit as important as the lessons they learn in the classroom. The alliance with AAASP gives the GHSA the framework to provide those same kinds of opportunities to students with physical disabilities or visual impairments."

AAASP's adapted sports model was developed by Bev Vaughn, AAASP President and Co-founder, through the DeKalb County School System. In 1996, Vaughn and Tommie Storms, AAASP Vice President and Co-founder incorporated AAASP and it has since grown from a single-county program to become statewide, and with interest from other states to adopt the AAASP model. The aim from the start has been to provide opportunities to these students to compete regularly in sports and to build an infrastructure with the integrity to withstand growth and replication.

"Dr. Swearngin and the GHSA are to be commended for their commitment to seeing that Georgia's students with physical



(Front) 8-time Boston Marathon winner Jean Driscoll. (Back-L to R) Bev Vaughn, President, AAASP; Jim Martin, Commissioner, GA Dept. of Human Resources; Don Waddell, V.P. & G.M., Atlanta Thrashers

disabilities or visual impairments receive equitable athletic opportunities in interscholastic sports," Vaughn said. "Through this alliance, we will be forging new territory which will undoubtedly improve the lives of these young people and lead to future life successes."

Although details of the alliance are yet to be defined, possible outcomes will be combined championship-level competitions to include a format for students with physical or visual impairments; and to provide AAASP training and certification to coaches, officials, and sports educators throughout the Georgia school system.



FOX TV Sports team interviews Dr. Ralph Swearngin

look to AAASP as its counterpart in adapted sports programming. The two organizations will work jointly to ensure that the needs of a wider population of students are met, and that educators are more fully prepared to serve Georgia's students.

Upcoming Events

Team Holyfield Clinic
Feb 17-18

AAASP Adapted Sports Lecture
Columbus State Univ.
Feb 19

2002 State Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
Mar 2

NWBA Junior National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
Mar 15-16

AAPHERD National Convention
Apr 8-12

18th Annual Victory Games
May 4

Adapted Sports Coaching Clinics
June 10 - 14

AAASP is a Georgia-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that builds sports leagues for youth with physical disabilities or visual impairments so they may receive the same opportunities through athletics as do the able-bodied, to stay healthy, enhance their quality of life and ensure their future economic self-sufficiency.

For more information, contact:
P.O. Box 538
Pine Lake, GA 30072
404/294-0070
Fax 404/294-5758

www.aaasp.org

WORLD-RENOWNED ATHLETE JEAN DRISCOLL ACCEPTS SEAT ON AAASP BOARD



Jean Driscoll

Olympic and Paralympic medallist and world record-holder Jean

Driscoll joins the Board of Directors of the American Association of AdaptedSports™ Programs, Inc. (AAASP), a nationally recognized leader in providing sports leagues programs for children with physical disabilities or visual impairments.

Driscoll is an Olympic track and field silver medallist both in 1992 in Barcelona and 1996 in Atlanta. She is also a five-time gold, three-time silver and four-time bronze Paralympic medallist. Among Driscoll's numerous other achievements, she is the only eight-time champion of the Boston Marathon, and the only person in the Boston Marathon to break both the course and world records five times.

Sports Illustrated for Women honored Driscoll as number 25 of the top 100 female athletes of the 20th century. She has made guest appearances on *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*, *CNN*, *ESPN*, *CBS Sports Spectacular*, and has been featured in *USA Today*, *the Washington Post*, and *Chicago Tribune*.

Driscoll said, "I am excited about what is happening in Georgia and can see how the world of wheelchair sports can change if the AAASP model is applied in others areas of the country as well."

"We are thrilled about Jean's shared passion to serve America's sidelined youth, and our relationship with her has already proved to be both inspiring and humbling," said Bev Vaughn, AAASP President and Co-founder. "That AAASP has come so far in such a short time, is something we take great pride and renewed commitment in each day."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Janie Avant
- Ann Cody
- Jean Driscoll
- Steve Henson
- Dr. Michael E. Lomax
- Ron Lykins
- Jay Sadd
- Dr. Jan Seaman
- Tommie Storms
- Dr. Ralph Swearngin
- Beverly Vaughn

AAASP NAMES FOUR TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Ralph Swearngin is currently the Executive Director of the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and has worked with the GHSA since 1992, as Commissioner of Officials for 8 years and Deputy Director for 1 year. For 20 years, he was a Professor and coached basketball and baseball at Atlanta Christian College in East Point, Georgia. He has a Ph.D. from Georgia State University in Education Psychology, and Bachelors and Masters degrees from Whittier College in California.

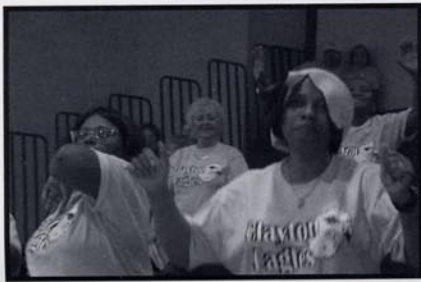
Dr. Jan Seaman is the Executive Director of the American Association for Active Lifestyles and Fitness AAALF, - one of the nation's associations of AAHPERD. She has been active for more than 30 years at all levels of governance in professional HPERD organizations. Among Dr. Seaman's many accomplishments are the receipt of the Gold Medal Award for Innovative Programming by the National Recreation and Parks Association, service on the Steering Committee for the Adapted Physical Education National Standards, a nationally funded project by the U.S. Department of Education, and coauthor of *The New Adapted Physical Education: A Developmental Approach*, a major textbook in adapted physical education.

James (Jay) Sadd is a trial lawyer and partner in the firm of Slappey and Sadd, Atlanta, Georgia. He holds a B.A. degree from East Tennessee State University and Juris Doctorate degree from the Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University. Mr. Sadd has presented numerous articles and seminars for the continuing education of fellow attorneys, and is the former editor of *Calendar Call* magazine, the official publication of the General Practice and Trial Section of the State Bar of Georgia. He is former chair of the legal Education Committee for YLS, State Bar of Georgia, former board member of Initiative 2000 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additionally, Mr. Sadd is an instructor at Emory University School of Law.

Jean Driscoll (See accompanying article or go to www.jeandriscoll.com).



2001 STATE INDOOR WHEELCHAIR SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



Clockwise from top left: Clayton Eagles' Coach Pat Hill; Columbia Fireballs' Israel Schultz; (l-r) N. Fulton Mustangs' Elizabeth Beaven & Garrett Couch w/ Atlanta Wolf Pack's Chris Rice; Division A Champions Columbia Fireballs; Division B Winners N. Fulton Mustangs; Atlanta Wolf Pack's Coach Marlo Weems with team members (l-r) Sherille Marshall & Chris Rice; Parents cheer Clayton Eagles.

TEAM HOLYFIELD BECOMES GEORGIA'S FIRST EVER TO QUALIFY FOR NWBA JUNIOR NATIONALS:

In its second year, Team Holyfield, AAASP's Georgia state all-star team became the first Georgia team ever to qualify for the National Wheelchair Basketball Association's (NWBA) Junior National Tournament when they finished third with a 3-1 record at a qualifying tournament in Greensboro, NC on December 1 and 2. This year the NWBA Junior National Tournament will be played in Birmingham, Alabama, March 15-18. Team Holyfield players are from AAASP member teams throughout Georgia who compete within AAASP's basketball league program. Team Holyfield is sponsored in part by The Holyfield Foundation.

POWER PLAYS

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming 18th Annual Victory Games to be held on May 4 at Panthersville Stadium in Decatur, Georgia. More than 200 volunteers are recruited each year for this day-long track and field event. *If you want to volunteer, please contact Bev Vaughn, AAASP President and Victory Games organizer at 404/294-0070.*

The Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta awards an \$11,000 grant to AAASP in support of its DeKalb County Beep Baseball and Cobb County Soccer and Basketball programs. Founded in 1951, the Foundation educates donors and their families on critical issues facing the greater Atlanta region and connects them with

nonprofit organizations that match their interests. This grant marks the third year that AAASP has been the recipient of The Community Foundation's support.

The National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) Goals and Dreams Fund boosts AAASP's debut Power Hockey league with an \$10,000 grant for equipment and uniforms. Goals & Dreams is funded by the NHLPA members to provide funds to grassroots hockey programs. Since its inception in 1999, Goals & Dreams has contributed to over 120 grassroots hockey initiatives all over the world.

Power Wheelchair Hockey, made its debut in December with two new

teams, the Clayton Cobras and the Atlanta Dragons. The initiation of this new league was made possible through a seed sponsorship from the Atlanta Thrashers professional hockey club and the NHLPA Goals and Dreams Fund. Now students in power wheelchairs will have a sport in which to compete during the winter season, while other AAASP athletes compete in wheelchair basketball. *For info about joining the AAASP Power Hockey League, contact Leslie Sweatman, State Coordinator at 404/294-0070.*

Make plans to attend the **2002 State Wheelchair Basketball Tournament** on March 2 at Avondale Middle School, Avondale Estates, Georgia. *For directions and additional info contact the AAASP office at 404/294-0070 or access www.aaasp.org.*

TOURNAMENT SCORES

Game One	
Team Holyfield	43
Philadelphia Comets	41
Game Two	
Team Holyfield	28
Lakeshore Lakers	78
Game Three	
Team Holyfield	43
Georgia Blazers	14
Game Four (re-match)	
Team Holyfield	41
Philadelphia Comets	40

Atlanta Thrashers Dedicate December 14 Adapted Sports Night



AAASP Athletes riveted to the action between the Atlanta Thrashers and the Chicago Blackhawks on Adapted Sports Night.

The NHL Atlanta Thrashers, demonstrate their community commitment by naming December 14 at Phillips Arena *Adapted Sports Night*, with more than 150 AAASP youth athletes and guests attending the matchup between the Atlanta Thrashers and the Chicago Blackhawks.

Don Waddell, Vice President and General Manager of the hockey team was presented with the 2001

ASPIRE Award for his great leadership and efforts to uphold AAASP's mission of providing adapted sports programming to children with physical disabilities or visual impairments. A TurnerSouth Network-produced feature of AAASP and its Adapted Sports programs was shown in the arena during half-time and, simultaneously, on the TurnerSouth Network. Volunteers from management and technology company Accenture were charged with a 50-50 raffle on behalf of the AAASP sports leagues and raised more than \$2000 - a record amount for raffles at a Thrashers game.



Tommy Storms presents the 2001 ASPIRE Award to Don Waddell as Thrasher fans watch the giant screen in Phillips Arena

The Holyfield Foundation Stages Charity Extravaganza

The Holyfield Foundation played host to more than 5000 guests at KIDS-FEST, a summer celebration in honor of its charity organizations, the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, the Georgia Amateur Boxing Association, and the Quicksilver Track Club. The event, held on August 25, marked the finale to the Holyfield Main Event Weekend, a three-day extravaganza to boost support for the construction of The Holyfield Youth Center. The multimillion dollar center will be a state-of-the-art athletic and academic complex in Southwest Atlanta, and the headquarters for The Holyfield Foundation's initiatives on behalf of underserved youth. The center will provide the facilities for AAASP's ongoing sports education programs that include a national Adapted Sports awareness campaign.

KIDSFEST, co-sponsored by the Atlanta Hawks, included entertainment by recording artists Lil' Zane and TRUTH, live remote broadcast by 95.5 The Beat Radio, and games and contests such as a 3-Point Wheelchair Basketball competition.

Supporters Drive First AAASP Charity Golf Tournament to Success

More than \$10,000.00 was raised to benefit the AdaptedSports™ programs for youth athletes at the First Adapted Sports Charity Golf Tournament on September 20, 2001 at The Georgian Resort in Villa Rica, Georgia. Congrats to Vance Wall, Alan Bennett, Chris Barnett and Steve Pace for their team's 1st Place victory; and to Bill Swank, Chris Nedza, Stacy Cochran and Chuck Pickard for their 2nd Place win. The 2nd Annual tournament is slated for October 3, 2002 at The Georgian Resort. For info: contact AAASP at 404/294-0070 or go to www.aaasp.org.

Thank you to our tournament sponsors!

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AAASP's Team Holyfield picks up a game during The Holyfield Foundation's KIDSFEST celebration.

HOLYFIELD, DRISCOLL, AAASP: ALL STARS IN HOUSTON

World-acclaimed athletes Evander Holyfield and Jean Driscoll teamed up with AAASP on January 17 in Houston at the Fonde Community Center to present *ASPIRE Houston*, the kick-off to the adult Indoor Wheelchair Soccer National Championships. Holyfield is National Spokesperson for AAASP and served as the IWS Nationals Honorary Chairperson; Driscoll is AAASP's *ASPIRE Project* Spokesperson and Board member.



Evander Holyfield and Jean Driscoll at *ASPIRE Houston*

ASPIRE Houston (Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education for Houston) introduced Houston to AAASP's adapted sports programs, the significance of adapted sports in local communities, and how Houston can help young athletes with physical disabilities and visual impairments have the same opportuni-

Georgia All-Star Blue Squad

Rodgenia Atkinson
Adam Bashakes
Blythe Cannady
Clavon Greene
Harden Montfort
Brandon Williams
DeMarco Williams

Georgia All-Star Red Squad

Lauren Giles
Chris Jones
Kurt Lawton
Matt Miklas
Ryan Peck
Daniel Weatherford
Robert Williams

ties to compete in sports and achieve the same results as do their able-bodied peers.

The highlight of *ASPIRE Houston* was an exhibition indoor wheelchair soccer match between AAASP's Georgia All-Stars - Red and Blue squads. The players were representatives from teams who compete in AAASP leagues across Georgia. This matchup demonstrated for the Houston spectators how the sport is adapted for competition by those with physical disabilities and exemplified the high level of skill that these youth develop through regularly scheduled practice and competition throughout the school year.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department served as host to *ASPIRE*



ASPIRE HOUSTON: AAASP athletes, parents, staff and the Houston skyline outside Houston's Fonde Community Center

Houston and the IWS National Championships, with organization and sanctioning

2001 ASPIRE Awards

Without the hardwork and dedication of many, many people, AAASP's goals would be difficult, if not impossible to accomplish.

The ASPIRE Awards (Adapted Sports Programs In Education and Recreation) were created to recognize select individuals who have made significant contributions within the community and who have played central roles in supporting AAASP's mission to provide adapted sports programs for children with physical disabilities or visual impairments, in order to enhance this population's physical, social, and intellectual well-being, thus leading to personal and social empowerment.

AAASP proudly recognizes the recipients of the 2001 ASPIRE Awards:

ASPIRE Award for Education

Roberta Hatcher
Director of Special Education
Richmond County Schools

ASPIRE Award for Advocacy

Don Waddell
Vice President and General Manager
of the NHL Atlanta Thrashers

Gail Hendrick Volunteerism Award

Lori Shappell
Teacher for Orthopedically Impaired
High School Students
Richmond County School System

by the National Disability Sports Alliance (NDSA) in partnership with America's Athletes with Disabilities (AAD).

Thanks to ASPIRE Houston Sponsors

2002 IWS National Championships
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America's Athletes with Disabilities (AAD)
ASAP Medical Supply Company
City of Houston Parks and Recreation
Department
Continental Airlines
Houston Mayor's Office
Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
METRO Transit Authority
Employees of METROLift Services
National Disability Sports Alliance (NDSA)
URO-Med
U.S. Indoor Wheelchair Soccer Association



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Off the Sidelines - Into the Game

INSIDE...

AAASP & GHSA
 announce first-of-its-
 kind alliance.....Cover

World-renowned ath-
 lete Jean Driscoll joins
 AAASP Board of
 Directors.....Page 2

Team Holyfield 1st In
 GA to Advance to
 Nationals.....Page 4

Evander Holyfield &
 Jean Driscoll repre-
 sent AAASP at ASPIRE
 Houston.....Page 5

JOIN! Friends of AAASP

A small donation to AAASP will help to continue the important programs offered to these hardworking young athletes. AAASP is the only program of its kind in the United States.

I would like to be a FRIEND OF AAASP.
 Enclosed is my donation of:

___ \$15 ___ \$25 ___ \$35 ___ Other \$ ___

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Please make checks payable to:
 AAASP, Inc.
 P.O. Box 538
 Pine Lake, GA 30072

FAST FACTS....

The Georgia High School Association recognizes AAASP as the sanctioning and governing body for interscholastic adapted sports programming in GHSA member schools.

AAASP allocates more than 80% of its funding directly to league programming.

AAASP holds 90+ youth competitions in Georgia every school year.

AAASP conducts approximately 15 sports training and certification clinics each year.