

Ashlin Adams Summary of Performance in Sport: Awards and Recognition

1991 -1999: Began competing with Special Olympics Miramichi in snowshoeing, athletics, bowling, floor hockey

1999: Tryout for Olympic Team in Calgary, Alberta for snowshoeing

2000 Member of Team New Brunswick: Canadian Special Olympics Winter Games in Ottawa, Ontario

- Medals for Snowshoeing: 3 Golds

2001 Member of Team Canada: World Winter Games in Alaska, USA

- Medals for Snowshoeing: 2 silver medals; 2 fourth place ribbons

2001 New Brunswick Special Olympics Male Athlete of the Year

2004 Member of Team New Brunswick: Canadian Special Olympics Winter Games in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

- Medals for snowshoeing: 1 gold, 1 bronze

2005: Member of Team Canada: World Winter Special Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan

- Medals for snowshoeing: 1 gold, 1 bronze

2006: Member of Team New Brunswick: Canadian Special Olympics Summer Games in Brandon, Manitoba

- Medals for athletics (100 metre, 400 metre, 800 metre, 400 metre relay): 3 Gold, 3 bronze

2007: Member of Team Canada: World Summer Special Olympic Games in Shanghai, China

- Medals for athletics (400 metre): 1 silver

These are most of the major awards Ashlin Adams has won. There are many, many more at the local and provincial level, but due to a flood at his mother's house, some of those awards were damaged.

Ashlin Adams is the son of Sharon Adams and Kenny Adams. He began competing with Special Olympics at the age of 17. He was involved in many sports, including bowling, floor hockey, athletics, and snowshoeing, but it was in the sports of snowshoeing and athletics that he excelled. He competed locally, provincially and nationally for several years until he qualified for the National Team tryouts. He made the 2001 Canadian National Winter Games team in the sport of snowshoeing and competed for Canada in the 2001 Winter Special Olympics hosted by Alaska, USA. Almost three thousand (2750) athletes and coaches from 80 countries participated at the Games. He medaled in two snow shoeing events winning 2 silvers. Because of his amazing international performance, Ashlin was awarded with the 2001 New Brunswick Special Olympics Male Athlete of the Year.

Ashlin continued to compete nationally and internationally and went on to participate in two more World competitions. The 2005 Special Olympics Winter World Games were hosted at Nagano in Japan and were the first Special Olympics World Games held in Asia.

Twenty-six hundred (2600) athletes and coaches from 84 countries participated at the Games in 7 sports. Ashlin medaled in two events, winning a gold and bronze. The 2007 Special Olympics Summer World Games were hosted at Shanghai, China. Over seven thousand (7291) athletes and coaches from 165 countries participated at the Games in 25 events. Ashlin exchanged his winter gear for summer gear and competed in athletics. He medaled in the 400 metre running, winning a silver.

When speaking with Ashlin's mother, Sharon, about Ashlin's achievements, she was very excited and honoured that someone is finally recognizing her son's success. She was very animated and could not say enough about Ashlin's experiences. She told the story of a major qualifying tournament in Bathurst. One athlete went up to Ashlin and said, "Ashlin, you always win. Can you let me get a medal this time?" At the end of the race, Ashlin started to slow down and he said, "Come on, I'll let you win." Ashlin's coaches were yelling at him in frustration, but, Ashlin said, "Geez man, I don't have to win every time, I have enough medals."

We asked Ashlin what were his favourite things about competing in Special Olympics. He spoke about good sportsmanship being at the top of the list. He loved meeting new people and making new friends. He loved competing against people and finding out how they were doing in sport and their personal life. It is obvious that Ashlin recognizes what sport is truly about.

Ashlin is one of the most decorated Miramichi athletes in international competition.

Attached is a letter of recommendation from Kelly Zackodnik of Calgary, AB, head coach of the national team at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Celebrating a 50 Year Journey of Inclusion (taken from Specialolympics.ca)

From its humble beginning with just 1,000 athletes on Soldier Field in Chicago in 1968, Special Olympics has become a global movement with more than 5 million athletes from 170 countries around the world. This year, Special Olympics celebrates its 50th anniversary, honouring the legacy of the past, while also looking to the future.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver had a vision to take a stand against the injustices faced by people with intellectual disabilities. Her solution was simple: give people with intellectual disabilities the chance to demonstrate their abilities, determination and value through sport. Alongside Ontario's Dr. Frank Hayden (Inducted into Canada's Sport Hall of Fame as a builder of the Special Olympics movement), they created a movement of inclusion, where all individuals are accepted and welcomed.

Despite the incredible growth of Special Olympics as a movement, there are still two hundred million people with intellectual disabilities around the world who continue to face an uphill battle for acceptance. The fight against complacency, ignorance and stigma is still critical today. As we celebrate the strides Special Olympics has made, we still have much more work to do.

Individuals with intellectual disabilities and their loved ones are faced with challenges, both big and small, every single day of their lives – challenges most will never encounter.

For 50 years, Special Olympics Canada has been giving its athletes and participants the strength, determination and confidence to accept those challenges in sport – and in life, giving them the courage to stare down any hurdle and respond: Challenge Accepted.

People with intellectual disabilities are done being left behind. We're ready to show the world the power of inclusion.

It seems fitting that Ashlin Adams be inducted into *Miramichi's Sport Wall of Fame* on this 50th year of celebration as Miramichi's first Special Olympian to receive this honour. Ashlin deserves this recognition for paving a road to excellence for all athletes in Miramichi, especially our Special Olympians.

Whether you grew up on the ballfields or in the hockey rinks of Miramichi, you can no doubt name a few Special Olympians who never missed a game, never missed an opportunity to cheer you on and support you as a youth or senior athlete. By having one of our Special Olympians on our wall of fame, it not only acknowledges the contributions our athletes have made in our community, but it demonstrates just how inclusive Miramichi is as a community.