

# Special Olympics

Summer National Games-London, Ontario 12 – 18 July 2010

On the 12 July 2010 at 7:45 am, two 5 pin and two 10 pin athletes began their journey to the Special Olympics Summer National Games, London, Ontario in their quest for gold in their respective sports and the chance to go to Athens, Greece for the World's in 2011. The Nationals represent the top 5 and 10 Pin bowlers from the 10 Provinces and three Territories in Canada for Special Olympics (athletes with intellectual disabilities) and the competition is very intense. The 5 Pin and 10 Pin competitions was held at the Fleetway Bowling Centre, London. The athletes were LeeAnn Bird and Ellis Deans for 5 Pin and Mike Campanaro and Jim Harpell for 10 Pin bowling. These athletes earned the right to go to the Nationals representing Ontario, Region 7 and the community of Kingston. This was a journey of four years and many tournaments and nights at the bowling lanes. After four days of 5 Pin bowling competition, LeeAnn's team placed second and Ellis's finished third out of eight teams in their division and earned the right to go to the medal round. Both teams won their first game, but lost their second game in close scores finishing second respectively earning the division team silver medal. LeeAnn also earned a silver medal in POA (pins over average) singles competition in her division with a +20. In 5 Pin bowling, athletes can only win medals in POA and team competition at Nationals. In the 10 Pin bowling, there are three days of competition for single, double and team events. This is a full day plus of competition for each athlete each day. Mike Campanaro received bronze in team and silver in single competition in his division. Jim Harpell earned a bronze medal in single competition in his division on the last day. Our Kingston athletes represented Ontario, Region 7 and Community very well both in competition and as ambassadors. They were accompanied by National selected Kingston coaches Doug Bird (5 Pin) and Lee Mason (10 Pin) bowling. The athletes and coaches arrived back in Kingston at 2:45 pm on 18 July 2010 to be greeted by family and friends with their medals and many good memories in toe. The Special Olympics Athletes would to thank their sponsors and many supporters for their support in making this dream come true. These athletes are to be congratulated for their accomplishments at the Special Olympics Summer National Games.

*WRITTEN BY DOUG BIRD*