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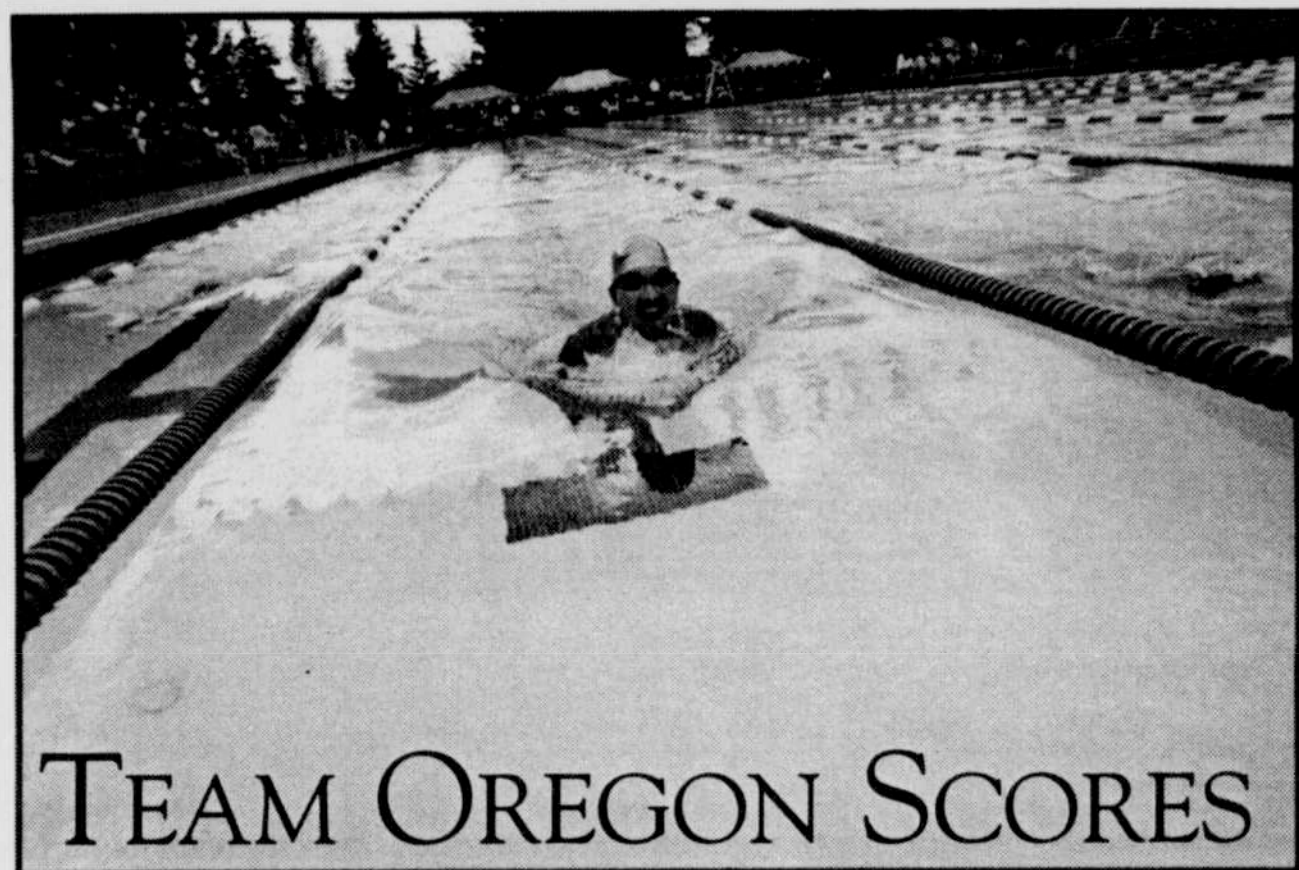


The Cascade AIDS Project's Speak To Your Brothers Counseling and Testing program is recruiting volunteers. Special needs include: men in their 20s, men in their 50s, Washington County residents, men of color and Spanish speaking volunteers.



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LOCAL news



PHOTOS BY LINDA KUEWER

Everyone's a winner at the Gay Games—but here's a list of the ones who brought home medals by Paul Harris

The fifth quadrennial Gay Games in Amsterdam came to an end after a record-breaking 14,700-plus athletes took part.

Participants from across the globe—including many from the Pacific Northwest—competed in 29 events, including billiards, sport climbing, table tennis, karate and bridge.

The week-long Gay Games, the theme of which was "Friendship through Culture and Sports," wrapped up Aug. 8.

While sports were the central focus, there were literally hundreds of other events going on simultaneously, including performances by singer Grace Jones and actor Harvey Fierstein. There were also many exhibits and discussions detailing different aspects of queer life. Banners and posters advertising the Games were everywhere.

According to the *Washington Post*, each night gay men and lesbians "from different parts of the world flocked to storytelling hours to relate their coming-out experiences."

Officially-sanctioned and unofficial parties were held every night. Some athletes were seduced by the scene and chose to drop out of their events because they had been partying too late the previous night. Some marathon runners opted to run the half-marathon instead of the full 26-mile version because of lack of sleep.

Team Oregon did well, winning numerous medals.

Track and field competitor Dawn Collins, 39, for example, took the gold in the 100 meters and the silver in the 200 meters. She describes attending the Amsterdam Games as "one of the most memorable events of my life."

Collins made up her mind to go to Amsterdam four years ago while at the New York-based Gay Games, where she had won a bronze medal. A veteran of two previous Gay Games, she felt "the theme of friendship really

came through in Amsterdam."

She adds, "I was able to talk to many people from all over the world and, as a result, felt more connected."

Another gold medal winner was Corvallis resident Sue Gill, who took the gold medal in the power-lifting competition. She squat-lifted 253 pounds, bench-pressed 130 pounds and lifted a dead weight of 341 pounds to win her medal.

Gill, who works in a correctional institution, was struck by the international aspects of the event: "Especially at the opening ceremonies, it hits you that we come from all over the world."

Another Team Oregon gold medal winner was Terence Hutch, who scored in the team body-building event.

Hal Gloff picked up a bronze playing bridge. Gloff says the Dutch Bridge Federation—the second largest national bridge federation in the world—was "wonderful and very hospitable."

Team Oregon also picked up a medal via Tom Chun, who nabbed a bronze in his division of the 200-meter breast stroke.

Other medal winners include Ellen Carder, who earned silver in martial arts forms; triathlete Jill Schuldt, who also took home a silver medal; and Rhonda Fleischman of

Brownsville, who nabbed the gold in the martial arts forms competition for women 40 and over.

There was some controversy at the Games, too.

Due to poor organizing, the International Skating Union had not been approached to either sanction the skating competition or, alternatively, to grant a waiver to the skaters. As a result, the competitive aspect of the event had to be canceled and the skaters presented a public demonstration of their sport.

Some participants were so enraged they discussed bringing a class action suit against the Gay Games for negligence.



Sprinter Dawn Collins; at top: Tom Chun