

Lifestyle —

Spirit makes them winners

For them, a special summer

By SANDRA ZUMMO

Summer's end is usually accompanied by a review that lists good times and bad to illuminate just what kind of summer it has been.

Well, no matter how many bad times

there might have been during the season, one weekend in Brockport, N.Y., last month wiped them out and elevated the summer of '79 to special status in the lives of five Islanders.

From Aug. 9 through 11, Ronald Campbell, Tracy Greil, Ann Marie

Longo, Ella Baker and Kim Karzewinski participated in the Fifth Annual International Special Olympic Games at the State University College of New York.

The International Special Olympics are run along the same lines as the regular sporting Olympic games, in that they occur every four years and feature competitions from track and field to swimming. The major difference between them is the entry requirement. Participants must have mental retardation as a primary handicap. Some have additional ones.

The event is sponsored by the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation. Of it, Kennedy daughter, Mrs. Eunice K. Shriver said, "In Special Olympics it is not the strongest body or the most dazzling mind that counts.

"It is the invincible spirit which overcomes all handicaps. For without this spirit, winning medals is empty. But with it, there is no defeat."

In order to represent Staten Island in the international games, the five young people had to have garnered at least one gold medal during the statewide Special Olympics held in June at St. Bonaventure's University.

In addition to their gold, the five were able to add to their booty at Brockport. Ronald, 27, took a gold medal in the 50-meter dash, Tracy, 18, won a bronze medal for swimming, Ann Marie, 16, was awarded the silver in bowling, while Ella, 25, and Kim, 21, took silver in the swimming and softball throw competitions, respectively.

Commenting on this year's games, Richard Salinardi, coordinator for the Special Olympics on Staten Island, said, "It was one of the greatest things I have ever seen in the field of Special Olympics. It gave all of us a good insight into what can be done."

Salinardi added that, because of the experiences of those who viewed and participated in the international games plans are under way for the first Regional Special Olympics, to include Nas-



Ronald Campbell, right, shows off the form that won him a gold medal in the 50-meter dash.



The sweet taste of victory is reflected in this happy group photographed at the International Special Olympics in Brockport, N.Y., last month. From the left are coach Curtis Smith, Tracy Grell, who sports the bronze medal she won for swimming, Ella Baker, whose silver was also for swimming, coach Helen Settles, Ronald Campbell, gold medalist in the 50-meter dash, Kim Karzewinski, who took a silver medal in the softball throw, Ann Marie Longo, sporting the silver she won in bowling and Richard Salinardi.

sau and Suffolk counties and the five boroughs, and take place the first week in May at the Staten Island Developmental Center. He looks forward to a great response, based on what he viewed earlier this month.

came from each of the 50 states and 30 foreign countries. The areas of competition included track and field, swimming, bowling, Frisbee throwing, gymnastics, one-meter diving and wheelchair events. Team sports were basketball, floor and

The competitions ended on Aug. 11 with the sealing of a time capsule containing representative items of the states and countries represented, and, perhaps one of the most touching events of the entire weekend — the final

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"If you could have seen the satisfaction that the people at Brockport got out of it...it was tremendous," he recalled. "Some of them worked in the planning of the games for three years. It was hard work, but they all said it was worth it."

Athletes in the international competition ranged in age from 8 to 80 and

polo hockey, soccer and volleyball.

In addition to the competitions, attending athletes could take part in sports clinic, games and other activities conducted by celebrities like Frank Gifford, Hank Aaron Bryon Watson, Jim Chones, Sally Struthers, Phyllis George, Christopher Reeve, Phil Donahue and Marlo Thomas.

parade of the Olympians around the university stadium.

When it was all over, they headed for the buses, trains and airplanes that would take them all home. They left with the sounds of 10,000 well-wishers still ringing in their ears and the memory of a very special summer in their hearts.

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2
4
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