

dad says of his 32-year-old son. "I'm not ashamed of my kid. He's such a happy person and he's got a heart of gold. How many sons say 'I love you, dad,' every morning and every night?"

John Jr., a bubbly and handsome man, is nevertheless fierce in competition and has excelled at two sports — powerlifting and ice skating. He was recently selected as the only New York State figure skater for the Special Olympics World Winter Games coming in February. This is after being told at age nine that he would not walk again following a severe accident that severed his calf muscle.

"On his own he worked relentlessly to prove the diagnosis wrong," Buttermark Sr. says. "It is amazing what his will has allowed him to accomplish."

But the parents, volunteers and Special Olympics and On Your Mark programs display such iron-clad will daily.

According to Salinardi, the organizations continue to grow year after year and parents offer bottomless pits of time and dedication to both their own and others' children.

Volunteers dedicate up to four days every week, year round, for the cause.

And perhaps most significant of all, the athletes bear the fruits of their supporters' labor and continue to give Staten Islanders athletic achievements to be proud of.

Below are the Island medal winners at the 1996 New York State Summer Special Olympic Games held in Albany, N.Y.

TRACK AND FIELD
Adult

- James Anderson, 400-meter run 30+ age group — 2nd; 800M — 4th; 4x100 relay — 4th
- Debra Ellis, 30+ 400M — 3rd; 800M — 4th
- Stephen Fanning, 30+ 100M — 5th; softball throw — 3rd
- Frank Niosi, 22-29 50M — 1st; softball throw — 1st
- Mary Pannese, 30+ 100M — 4th; 800M — 5th
- Doug Patterson, 22-29 400M — 4th; 5000M — 3rd; 4x100 relay — 4th
- James Pierre, 22-29 50M — 2nd; softball throw — 3rd
- Christian Russo, 22-29 800M — 2nd; 1500M — 4th; 4x100 relay — 4th
- Tommy Sheedy, 30+ 200M — 4th; 400M — 4th
- Joseph Villane, 22-29 400M — 1st; 5000M — 1st; 4x100 — 4th

Youth

- Carlos Jackson, 8-11 100M — 5th; long jump — 1st
- Paxton Jerscheid, 8-11 bowling — silver
- Mark Knutsen, 8-11 50M — 1st; long jump — 3rd
- Peter Lovett, 8-11 50M — 5th; long jump — 1st
- Brittany Maya, 12-15 50M — 5th; softball throw — 3rd
- Kathryn Pennacchio, 8-11 50M — 1st; softball throw — 1st
- Stefane Rusinich, 8-11 100M — 2nd; softball throw — 5th
- Dupree Stanley, 8-11 100M — 2nd; long jump — 3rd

AQUATICS

A division

- Jackie Bouquoio, 16-21 50M free — 1st; 50M back — 4th
- Jeanine Long, 16-21 50M free — 1st; 50M back — 1st; 4x50M relay — 1st (club record)
- Greg Micieli, 16-21 50M breast — 3rd; 100M breast — 1st; 4x50M relay — 1st (club record)
- Anthony Mussetti, 16-21 50M free — 1st; 50M back — 1st; 4x50M relay — 1st (club record)
- Mark Revkin, 22-29 50M free — 2nd; 50M back — 4th
- Tina Stetter, 22-29 50M back — 1st; 100M free — 2nd; 4x50M relay — 1st (club record)

B division

- Kristine Garambone, 16-21 25M free — 5th; 25M back — 3rd
- Jeffrey Jacob, 22-29 25M free — 3rd; 25M back — 4th
- Victor Klamzon, 16-21 15M assisted — 1st
- Seth Winderman, 22-29 25M free — 2nd; 25M back — 4th

BOWLING

- Joseph Arale, 16-21 singles — 2nd; doubles — 2nd
- William Floyd, 13-15 singles — 3rd; doubles — 3rd
- Keri-Anne Loglisci, 16-21 singles — 3rd; doubles — 3rd
- Michael Messina, 16-21 singles — 2nd; doubles — 2nd

VOLLEYBALL — INDIVIDUAL SKILLS

- Coletta Bailey, 22-29 level 1 — 2nd
- Tina Marie Johnson, 16-21 level 1 — 2nd

BASKETBALL ADAPTIVE (INDIVIDUAL SKILLS)

- George Bowden, 30+, adaptive — 4th
- Nicky Graeven, 30+, adaptive — 1st
- Daniel Lane, 13-15, adaptive — 4th

BASKETBALL

WAGNER COLLEGE BLUE SEAHAWKS, 4th Place

Senior division

Patrick Boles, 30+ — most rebounds; James E. Champagne, 8-12 — led all clubs in steal; Timothy Colondres, 13-15 — high scorer over 5 games; Donaldson Davis, 22-29; Clint DeLeonardo, 22-29; Carlton Hurlston, 30+ — most assists; Scott Pedro, 22-29; James Williams, 16-21 — most rebounds, overall outstanding player

POWERLIFTING

- Anthony Aragona, 30+ bench press — 3rd; dead lift — 3rd; combination — 4th
- Anthony Bates, 22-29 bench press — 3rd; dead lift — 2nd; combination — 3rd
- John Buttermark, 30+ bench press — 1st; dead lift — 1st; combination — 1st
- Anthony Fairweather, 22-29 bench press — 2nd; Mark Fairweather, 22-29 bench press — 2nd; dead lift — 3rd; combination — 2nd
- Luis Lopez, 30+ bench press — 3rd; dead lift — 2nd; combination — 2nd
- Maria Maisonet, 22-29 bench press — 1st; dead lift — 1st; combination — 1st
- Ronnie Russo, 22-29 bench press — 1st; dead lift — 2nd; combination — 2nd
- Ken Tobin, 16-21 bench press — 2nd; dead lift — 3rd; combination — 3rd
- Dennis Verderosa, 30+ bench press — 3rd; dead lift — 3rd; combination — 3rd
- Christopher Young, 16-21 bench press — 2nd; dead lift — 1st; combination — 1st