



Indiana Teen Captures Gold at Special Olympics World Winter Games



Osgood, Ind. native Chris Perdue, 18, earned a gold medal at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in the Advanced Giant Slalom snowboarding event on Tuesday, Mar. 21, 2017.

SCHLADMING, Austria — A pair of athletes from Indiana are competing in the [Special Olympics World Winter Games](#) this week, and one will return from Austria a gold medalist.

Snowboarder Chris Perdue, a native of Osgood, Ind. and a student at South Ripley High School in Versailles, won the men's second division advanced giant slalom event on Tuesday.

As a member of Team USA, Perdue competed against Special Olympics athletes from around the globe for the fastest combined time in two runs down the mountain. He set a personal record in his first run, and shaved an additional five seconds from his time on the second to claim the victory by a narrow margin.

"Chris' second run impressed us all," said Perdue's coach Jimmy Laub, of Lawrenceburg. "He nailed everything we have been practicing and I could not be more proud he is coming home with gold."

Perdue, who trains at Perfect North Slopes in Lawrenceburg and competes regularly as a member of [Special Olympics Indiana's Ripley-Ohio-Dearborn Counties program](#), is making a name for himself this winter, having also participated in the Winter X Games Unified Snowboarding event in January.

"I have never been more proud of Chris," said Sherry Carroll, Perdue's mother. "He has inspired me and is inspiring others to give it their best."

Also representing Indiana as a member of Team USA is alpine skier Kristi Yarbrough, of Jeffersonville, who earned bronze for her third-place finish in the women's F08 division of the alpine intermediate slalom event.

Perdue and Yarbrough will return to Indiana on Saturday along with their coaches and family members, where they will be greeted by a large crowd of well-wishers at Indianapolis International Airport. Fans and media are invited to join the homecoming celebration near gate A14 at 7 p.m. EST.

For more information about the Special Olympics World Winter Games, visit www.austria2017.org.

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ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA

Special Olympics Indiana is a not-for-profit organization that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in more than 20 Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, reaching more than 12,000 athletes across Indiana. The organization receives no federal or state appropriated funds, is not a United Way agency, and relies entirely on corporate, civic and individual donations. For more information about Special Olympics Indiana, call (317) 328-2000 or visit www.soindiana.org.

ABOUT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES

Every two years, thousands of Special Olympics athletes worldwide come together to showcase their athletic skills and celebrate the spirit of Special Olympics in alternating World Summer and World Winter Games. The first Special Olympics World Games took place in 1968 and since then have evolved into a world-class sporting event, attracting a wide range of sponsors, supporters and media. Special Olympics World Games bring public attention to the talents and capabilities of people with intellectual disabilities and are a capstone to more than 108,000 competitions that happen at all levels of Special Olympics each year. For more information about the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, please visit the Games' official website at www.austria2017.org.

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