

**Top Girls Basketball Team in Nebraska Makes  
Final Preparations for National Special Olympics**

*Team from Omaha's Madonna School Ready for National Competition*

*Beginning Sunday, July 18, in Lincoln*

16 July 2010

Omaha, NE – The coaches and players for the top Special Olympics girls' basketball team in Nebraska are heading into their final practice for the National Special Olympics beginning Sunday, July 18, in Lincoln.

**Local media visited the team's final practice, Thursday, July 15, 7:00-8:00 PM, at Madonna School, 6402 N. 71<sup>st</sup> Plaza, Omaha, NE, 68102. Coaches Bryce Poskochil and Diane Vaiskunas gave interviews, as did members of the Madonna Mustangs state champion team.**

The team includes current Madonna students Anna Borrink, Nicole Fields, Michel'le McIntosh, Danielle Osborn and Michaela Schwartz. Madonna graduates include Melisaa Giersch, Amy Hillabrand, Mary Ocken, Emily Walsh and Corey Prohaska.

The Madonna team won the state championship in March of 2009 to qualify for the national competition. The team includes five current students and five Madonna graduates; they range in age from 16 to 36 years old.

More than 3,000 athletes from throughout the United States will descend upon Lincoln to compete in venues in or near the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The basketball competition will take place at Lincoln Southeast High School. More information on the competitions is available online at <http://www.2010specialolympics.org/>

Madonna School is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a school of the Archdiocese of Omaha founded on the Christian principles of the value, worth and dignity of every individual as created by God. Our mission is to educate students with cognitive and other developmental disabilities to become as independent as possible. Every student, no matter how severe his/her disability, is capable of living and working in the community.

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