**DATE:** October 4, 2016

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**2018 Special Olympics USA Games**

**Announce Pro Sports Partnerships & Celebrity Ambassadors**

Rise with Us! The 2018 Special Olympics USA Games will announce partnerships with regional professional sports franchises and the backing of the community’s most respected athletes and leaders in entertainment, Thursday, October 6, 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. in the Home Interview Room at CenturyLink Field.

**Games Ambassadors**

The 2018 Special Olympics USA Games is building a powerful team of influential celebrities from the worlds of sports, entertainment, and the arts to serve as official Games Ambassadors, helping amplify the Special Olympics message of diversity, inclusion, and unity.

Among the Games Ambassadors participating in 2018 are Apolo Ohno, Gary Payton, Duff McKagan and Susan Holmes McKagan, Dave Krieg, Kasey Keller, and Breanna Stewart. A complete list of Ambassadors will be available at the announcement event.

**Professional Sports Partnerships**

Also rallying behind the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games are the Seattle Mariners, Seattle Seahawks, Seattle Sounders FC, Seattle Storm, Seattle Reign FC, Seattle Saracens, Seattle University and the University of Washington. These franchises and regional institutions have committed their support, engagement and influence in the community, ensuring that athletes across the country compete on the best platform possible.

**Corporate Partnerships**

Additionally, Special Olympics USA Games is pleased to announce new corporate partnerships with Alaska Airlines, Sheraton Seattle, KOMO TV, and ESPN. These organizations join a growing list of corporate supporters that include Legacy Partners Microsoft, Bank of America, Starbucks, KPMG and Special Olympics Founding Partner The Coca-Cola Company.

**ESPN**

ESPN continues its commitment to the Special Olympics movement as the official broadcast partner of the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games. KOMO TV, an ABC affiliate based in Seattle, will serve as the regional media partner.

**2018 Special Olympics USA Games Sports Partnerships & Celebrity Ambassadors Announcement**

**HOST:** Seattle Sports Commission

**WHEN:** October 6, 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** CenturyLink Field Home Interview Room

**WHO:** Bob Rondeau (emcee);Alec Middleton, Special Olympics Athlete; Carl Gardiner, Vice Chair Seattle Sports Commission; Beth Knox, USA Games CEO; Jordan Babineaux and Marcus Trufant, retired Seattle Seahawks; Devon Adelman, Special Olympics Athlete

**PARKING:** Free parking at CenturyLink Field Garage; enter from 2nd floor

**Details:** SelectAmbassadors will be available for interviews from 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**Follow Special Olympics USA Games**

For more information on the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games, please visit [www.specialolympicsusagames.org](http://www.specialolympicsusagames.org/) and follow on

Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsUSAGames](http://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsUSAGames);

Twitter at <https://twitter.com/2018USAGames>;

Instagram at <https://instagram.com/SpecialOlympicsUSAGames>; and

YouTube at [www.youtube.com/specialolympicsusagames](http://www.youtube.com/specialolympicsusagames)

**About the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games**

The Special Olympics USA Games will be held in Seattle, Washington July 1-6, 2018.  Nearly 3,500 athletes will compete in an array of Olympic-type team and individual sports, with the support of 1,000 coaches, and tens of thousands (if not more!) volunteers and spectators. The 2018 Special Olympics USA Games will celebrate the Special Olympics movement, promote the ideals of acceptance and inclusion through sport and showcase athletes from throughout the U.S. and the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities. The 2018 USA Games will also highlight Special Olympics’ work in sport, education, health and community-building.

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