

## News Release



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Editor's Note: Mike will be practicing this Saturday, July 10, at the M.E. Lyons YMCA from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The M.E. Lyons YMCA is located at 8108 Clough Pike; 45244.

### **M.E. Lyons YMCA Swimmer In Training For National Special Olympics**

July, 2010 -- At 27, Anderson resident Mike Stone is already a more than twenty time Olympic gold medalist. That would be state Special Olympics gold medals in 200M freestyle, 200M back stroke and relay swimming where he has represented Hamilton County (and the M.E. Lyons YMCA where he practices) for the past 12 years.

Now, for the very first time, that athlete who has been training since he was six is preparing for the competition of a lifetime – the National Special Olympics games in Nebraska beginning July 18. This year will also mark the first time that an M.E. Lyons YMCA swimmer has qualified for the national competition.

"I wanted to see if it was challenging," said Stone of his reason for pursuing the sport. In addition to Special Olympics, he competed on the Purcell Marion High School team until his graduation. Now, with a busy schedule that includes working full time for Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, he practices once a week at the YMCA and whenever he can in his condominium complex pool.

M.E. Lyons offers programs for children and adults with disabilities. The team group in which Stone participates has approximately 18 swimmers that train year round ranging in age from 20 to 60. They can begin competing in Special Olympics when they are eight. Jean Ann Sisk and Tom McTernan have coached the group for more than 20 years.

"Mike is a fantastic swimmer who works diligently on his skills at practice each week. He is always enthusiastic and is a positive role model to his team mates. We are very lucky to have him on our team," said Sisk.

For more information about the swimming program at the YMCA, the public can call 513-474-1400.

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