



**Special Olympics**  
**Illinois**

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**PRO FISHERMAN CHAD MORGENTHALER TEAMS WITH  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL BASS TOURNAMENT**  
*54 Teams Compete and Raise \$21,000 for Illinois Athletes*

**NORMAL, IL** – Pro bass fisherman Chad Morgenthaler hosted the 3rd Annual Chad Morgenthaler Bass Tournament to benefit Special Olympics Illinois Sept. 20-21 at Sailboat Harbor at Rend Lake in southern Illinois. He was joined by Ranger Pro Guido Hibdon.

The weekend included the two-day buddy team format tournament, a Beat the Pro fishing contest and a chance to win great prizes. A pre-tournament meeting on Friday night at Rend Lake Resort featured dinner, a silent auction and hundreds of raffle prizes. The entire weekend's activities raised nearly \$21,500 for Special Olympics Illinois.

Fifty-four teams competed for most weight over two days and for big bass for each day. Thirty teams took part in a Beat the Pro contest against Morgenthaler and Hibdon held on the first day of the tournament. Twelve teams had more weight in fish than the pros and won prize bags filled with tackle and other fishing goodies.

Eight teams finished in the money for the tournament:

- 1st place - Mark O'Brien and Bill Draper - 10 fish, 24 lbs. 6 oz.
- 2nd place - Russell Harris and Jason Craine - 10 fish, 23 lbs. 1 oz.
- 3rd place - Scott Kirk and Jason Thomas - 10 fish, 22 lbs, 7 oz.
- 4th place - Eugene Martin and Richard Goss - 10 fish, 22 lbs. 5 oz.
- 5th place - Dan McDowell and Eric Ballinger - 10 fish, 22 lbs. 4 oz.
- 6th place - Brett Boldrey and Kenneth Pitchford - 9 fish, 22 lbs. 1 oz.
- 7th place - Neil McCord and Steve Sizemore - 10 fish, 22 lbs. 0 oz.
- 8th place - Matt Swalls and Ron Robinson - 8 fish, 21 lbs. 8 oz.

Matt Swalls and Ron Robinson had Day 1's Big Bass with a weight of 4 lbs. 5 oz. and Greg Herrin and Gene Gilliam had Day 1's 2nd Big Bass with a weight of 3 lbs. 15 oz.

Dan McDowell and Eric Ballinger had Day 2's Big Bass with a weight of 4 lbs. 11 oz. and Matthew Orr and James Hewlett had Day 2's 2nd Big Bass with a weight of 3 lbs. 10 oz.

Jasper Engines & Transmissions was presenting sponsor of the Chad Morgenthaler Bass Tournament.

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## **CHAD MORGENTHALER BASS TOURNAMENT FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS/PAGE 2**

Chad Morgenthaler, 41, has been a professional bass fisherman since 2002. He is sponsored by Jasper Engines & Transmissions, Ranger Boats, Yamaha Motors, Reaction Innovations, Lunger Lure – Hawg Caller, Svanda GM Motor Group, Fenwick Rods, Solar Bat, Lowrance Electronics, Power-Pole, Nameoki Village Marine, Abu Garcia, Trilene, Plano Tackle and Minn Kota.

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 19 sports for more than 21,000 athletes ages 8 years and older with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family support. This is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Special Olympics which began with the first games at Soldier Field in July, 1968. The program is now in more than 175 countries. If you are interested in learning more about Special Olympics Illinois, volunteering or providing financial support to help make Special Olympics programs possible, contact your local Special Olympics agency, call 800-394-0562 or visit the web site at [www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org).

The Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest year-round fund-raising event benefiting Special Olympics Illinois. The intrastate relay and its various fundraising projects have two goals: to raise money and increase public awareness for the athletes of Special Olympics. Each year, more than 3,000 officers in Illinois run more than 1,500 miles carrying the Flame of Hope through the streets of their hometowns and deliver it to the State Summer Games in Normal in June.

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