

## Shriners Hospitals' Patients Participate in Sports

FROM archery to weightlifting, children with disabilities can be part of the game. Sometimes they need adaptive equipment, sometimes the rules are tweaked just a bit – often there's a combination of both. Regardless of the changes, the kids expend the same effort and determination as their non-disabled counterparts, and reap the same benefits – including enhanced flexibility and balance, increased stamina and strength, and improved self-image and social skills.

Because Shriners Hospitals for Children is committed to improving the overall quality of life for its patients, the hospital system provides information, resources, programs, and activities to help patients maintain physical fitness, including access to a wide variety of adaptive sports. Some hospitals have their own programs and some partner with other organizations.

For example, the Lexington, Spokane and Tampa Shriners Hospitals have sponsored No Limits Sports Days, giving their patients the opportunity to try several different sports, including archery, basketball, golf and soccer. In addition, the Spokane and Tampa hospitals have hosted the National Junior Disability Championships, which draws nearly 300 elite athletes with disabilities from around the world.

The Shriners Hospital in Erie, Pa., offers sled hockey, adaptive golf, wheelchair basketball, and adaptive sailing. Golf is fairly new there; sled hockey is by far the most popular. The hospital has helped organize sled hockey teams throughout the region.

The Northern California hospital has coordinated several activities, including skiing and kayaking, with Disabled Sports USA, and the hospital also works with the city's adaptive sports program, Access Leisure. The Chicago Shriners Hospital has an impressive list of adaptive sports opportunities, including golf, basketball, tennis and rock climbing.



Other Shriners Hospitals, like the Springfield hospital, have partnered with local facilities, like the Boy's & Girl's Clubs, to offer exercise and fitness programs.

The development, growth and interest in adaptive sports can be linked to the passage of several pieces of legislation in the last 30 years, including the Amateur Sports Acts of 1978 and 1998, the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997.

Today, adaptive sports are highly organized and technologically advanced. There is a wide range of national organizations with regional affiliates representing several sports, as well as accessible fitness and recreational facilities in many local communities. While there are college scholarships available for athletes with disabilities, as well as Olympic-level competitions, the importance and benefit of adaptive sports extends far beyond the glory experienced by those at the top of the game.

For children with special health needs, the opportunity to participate in sports also has rehabilitative benefits, including improved stamina, strength and flexibility. In addition, the increased activity may lessen the risk of a host of health problems caused by a sedentary lifestyle, and increase self-confidence, self-esteem and opportunities for friendships and socializing.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is proud to be able to offer these wonderful opportunities to kids. For more information about these activities, contact your nearest Shriners Hospital.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a one-of-a-kind international system of 22 hospitals dedicated to providing specialized pediatric care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs. Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns of all degrees, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for admission and receive all care at no charge – regardless of financial need or relationship to a Shriner.

## Aleppo Transportation Unit News

By MARK NORTON

HELLO Nobles! I hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays. While everyone was home resting and relaxing Transportation has been busily preparing for next season parades as well as transporting units to parades right up to the end of December. Many members of our unit have been busy running shuttle buses around the auditorium, as well as selling tickets in the box office for the various events, and taking the units to the many parades we participated in. A big thank you to everyone who helped out.

A special thank you to Mr. **Jim Parker**, who has provided us with the use of his tractors either one or two for each parade and **Rick Nighelli** who has also driven his own tractor for each parade.

The Clowns and the Motor Patrol have kept us very busy this year with all the events they participated. We had seven trucks and busses in the Revere Parade.

Past Captain **Winson Snook** was busy arranging our holiday get-together, which I am sure everyone enjoyed.

We are looking forward to a better year after all the breakdowns and mechanical problems that we experienced this year. We have been busy trying to keep up with the problems and fixing various vehicles so that we will have a safe and smooth time next year. **Marty** and **Ted** have spent countless hours at the Shrine moving trailers and getting trucks and equipment ready for each event and I thank them for the hard work and dedication to the unit.

See you all at the Ceremonial on January 26, and the Re-Enlistment Dinner on January 30.

P.S. Anyone who is re-enlisting must show up and fill out a new application; we need to update info.

## Vermeil & White to Coach East-West Shrine Game Squads

HOUSTON – **Jack Hart**, executive director of the East-West Shrine Game, announced today that former NFL head coaches **Dick Vermeil** and **Mike White** have been selected to coach the two squads in the annual classic to be held on Jan. 19, 2008, at John O'Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium on the University of Houston campus.

Kickoff for the contest is slated for 6 p.m. CST and will be nationally broadcast by ESPN.

"It is our distinct pleasure to have Dick Vermeil and Mike White as our head coaches for the 83rd East-West Shrine Game," said Hart. "Their NFL background and experience will give the players in the game a great 'NFL Exposure' opportunity. Last year, **Don Shula** and **Dan Reeves** were our first NFL coaches, and Coach Vermeil and Coach White add to that important direction of the game.

"I have known both men for many years, and they will bring a lifetime of coaching accomplishments and experience to the game. That is great for the players who will participate in the East-West Shrine Game."

One of the most distinguished head coaches in the history of both professional and college football, Vermeil spent 19 seasons as a head coach in the NFL and two years at UCLA. Vermeil is the only head coach to lead teams to victories in both the Super Bowl and the Rose Bowl. He finished his professional career with an overall mark of 126-114 and was 15-5-3 in his two seasons with the Bruins.

A former color analyst for NFL and college football broadcasts from 1983-96, Vermeil returned to the sidelines in 1998, eventually leading the St. Louis Rams to a franchise-best 13-3 mark in 1999 and a victory in Super Bowl XXXIV over Tennessee. Vermeil has been named "Coach of the Year" at four different levels, high school, junior college,

NCAA Division I and has earned the honor twice in the NFL.

"To me, the East-West Shrine Game goes back to my childhood and is much deeper," said Vermeil. "I grew up in Napa Valley in Northern California, and my grandpa was a Shriner. My dad would take me to the East-West Shrine Game every year."

"Now, to have the opportunity to coach in this wonderful game is very exciting."

White spent 47 years coaching at both the college and professional levels, including head-coaching stints at his alma mater, the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Illinois and the NFL's Oakland Raiders. He compiled an overall collegiate record of 82-71-4, and finished at 15-17 in his two years with the Raiders.

A two-time National Coach of the Year (1975 and 1983), White was the PAC 8 Coach of the Year in 1975 in leading Cal to a PAC 8 Co-Championship with UCLA. Later at Illinois, he led the Illinois to a Big 10 Championship in 1983 and was named the Big 10 Coach of the Year in both 1983 and 1985.

"Like Coach Vermeil, I, too, am from Northern California and grew up with the East-West Shrine Game," added White. "When I was a college coach, I had the pleasure of coaching in the game twice. I guess it comes full circle that I can coach again."

"This is a great cause. The key to the game is the hospital and the hospital visit by the players. It has settled in Houston, which has not only the great services and hospitals for the children, but it also has the facilities and backing from the Houston Texans and the University of Houston."

Every year since 1925, the East-West Shrine Game has been played to help raise money and awareness for Shriners Hospitals for Children, an international system of 22 pediatric specialty hospitals that provide care for children with

## Golf and More Golf

By HERMES BOYATIS

MANY Shriners love to swing their clubs wherever and whenever they can. They may not get to St. Andrews in Scotland or to the exclusive Masters or U.S. Open, but they love to play the game for the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund.

Let me name only two of our golfing guys: Our Grand Master **Jeffrey B. Hodgdon's** office wall is adorned with three photos, all top golfers. Noble **Ralph Brown**, a leader in virtually all sports, has a distinguished forbear, a surgeon and golfer who tested golf balls with X-rays!

Golfing news was made on September 9, when the Shriners Hospitals for Children became host of the PGA tours. **Ralph W. Semb**, Chairman, Board of Trustees, said, "This commitment is a fantastic complement to our charity focus."

On October 8-14 the competition took place at TPC Summerlin. Called the "Shriners Hospitals for Children Open," it was the first event in a five-year six million dollar arrangement with PGA Tours! Swing on Shriners!

orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate – all at no charge. To date, the game has helped raise more than \$15 million and informed millions of people about the mission of this extraordinary philanthropy.

The 82nd East-West Shrine Game in 2007 included 37 players who were selected in the NFL Draft this past April, while an additional 51 players were later signed as free agents. Former Cougar standout **Jackie Battle** was a member of the West Team in 2007 and later signed a free-agent contract with the Dallas Cowboys.