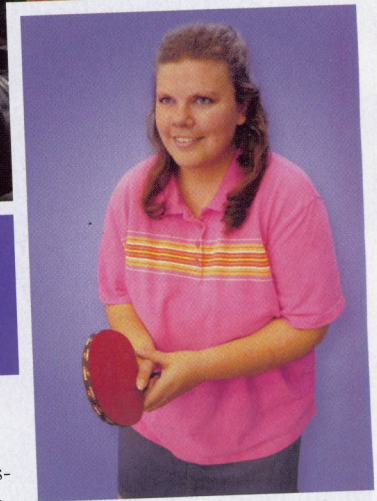


Pictured left to right:  
Daniel Hester with Mark Keesee; Chris Currere (with Mark); Melissa Middleton



## Forsyth County Special Olympics **GOLD WINNERS** By Cathy Ray

Forsyth County Special Olympics Rock!! This summer there will be two super strong guys representing our county and state at the 2011 Summer Special Olympic Games in Greece. Power lifters Chris Currere and Daniel Hester will be flexing some serious muscle in pursuit of bringing home the gold. "We've come a long way," said the boys' trainer Mark Keesee, "We used to only compete locally but when Susan (Darlington) came along, it really took off. We started participating in the state games which has led us to the Summer Olympics in Greece." Currere and Hester will be in different weight classes but both will be competing in squat, bench press and dead lift. "I'm looking forward to bringing home the gold," said Hester. "I'm looking forward to all the girls!" chimed in Currere. Both boys' love for life and senses of humor make them gold winners already.

In addition to sending the super strong power lifters to the Special Olympics in Greece, Forsyth County Special Olympics is also responsible for the very talented Melissa Middleton, 2010 Athlete of the Year. What an amazing girl! This awesome table tennis champion does everything. She plays softball, bocce, floor hockey, bowling, cheerleading and basketball. Middleton is more than an athlete as she also plays the piano, violin, harmonica and is a very talented artist. Middleton loves the Forsyth County Special Olympics because she can "help others, meet new people and friends....and it's lots of

fun!!" Angela Middleton, Melissa's mother who is also a "special needs" person, couldn't be prouder, "She helps out her neighbors and has big caring heart." And Melissa's coach Ed Speas beams as he talks about his star athlete's many accomplishments, "Melissa even designed our team mascot."

The amazing team at the Forsyth County Special Olympics has done so much to help these athletes follow their dreams. Of course, they couldn't do it without the help of the many volunteers, staff and your donations. The big hearts and countless hours of hard work from people like Susan Darlington, Transition Coordinator, Leader; Dana Westbrook, Leadership Team Chair; D'Lesia Medlin, Fund Raiser Chair; Susan Sweeney, Volunteer Chair; Ron Molner, public Relations Director and the many volunteers and additional staff with Forsyth County Olympics have put bright sparkles in the eyes of these talented young people. To learn more about how you can help through donations, volunteering or any other information visit [www.soforsyth.com](http://www.soforsyth.com).

Let's all rally together to support our athletes going to Greece for the 2011 Special Olympics in July. Good luck to these truly special athletes with huge muscles that obviously match their huge hearts!

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