

# Gladiator News

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## Making a difference with the “Gladiators’ Olympics”

Press Release  
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When the Bradenton Gladiators were contacted by representatives from Easter Seals of Southwest Florida about organizing an event for their participants, the Gladiators did not hesitate. In the previous year, the Gladiators hosted a small fitness camp for the group. However this year the Gladiators wanted to enhance the program and decided to host the Gladiators’ Olympics for the students.

Easter Seals provides services and programs that empower individuals with disabilities and their families. Over the years their services have grown to extend throughout the lifespan and include therapies, activities and opportunities for children and adults with disabilities.



It was the Gladiators’ goal to organize a special event that would teach the students that their disability was not a restriction. The Gladiators’ Olympics gave the Easter Seals students the opportunity to compete amongst their peers, have fun and put their abilities to a test. The athletes from Easter Seals competed in the 40 yard dash, 20 yard pro shuttle, and a kick/pass/punt challenge. The winners were awarded Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals and to ensure that each student felt like a WINNER, they were all given certificates of achievement.

It was evident that the Gladiators along with volunteers from Premier Sports and the Manatee Police Athletic League were having just as much fun as the athletes. This could clearly be seen by the smiles, enthusiastic high-fives, and other encouragement.



The event was such a success that the Bradenton Gladiators and Premier Sports hope to make this an annual event and perhaps hold it on a weekend so that more friends and family members can attend and support the students. Jeff Charlton a player from the Bradenton Gladiators Adult Amateur Football Program summed it up best; he said “thank you for letting me be an apart of helping you (Gladiators) change lives, I really appreciate it”.

### 2011 Gladiators Olympics Medalists

**40 Yard Dash** – Justin Suggs (Gold); Marquette Simmons (Silver); Matthew Stewart (Bronze)

**20 Yard Pro Shuttle** – Allan Stine (Gold); Dontrale Ward (Silver); Justin Suggs (Bronze)

**Quarterback Throw** – Justin Suggs (Gold); Marquette Simmons (Silver); Eric Garvin (Bronze)

**Punting Competition** – Eric Garvin (Gold); Justin Suggs (Silver); Dontrale Ward (Bronze)

*The Bradenton Gladiators, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization. Our mission is to develop fundamental values and offer alternative activities to at-risk youth and young adults, while establishing various programs to positively develop surrounding communities. For additional information contact us by phone at (941) 320-7576, via email at [gladiators@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:gladiators@tampabay.rr.com) or visit our website at [www.bradentongladiators.com](http://www.bradentongladiators.com).*