



## 2025 IHSA JOURNALISM STATE FINALS: **RADIO NEWS**

### **DIRECTIONS & RULES**

You are a staff reporter for Abraham High School's radio station WMIL (Middleland, Ill.). The station's News Director assigned you to attend a press conference hosted by Special Olympics Illinois (SOIL) in the Heartland Community College.

Michelle Mayer, the Senior Director of Marketing & Communications for SOIL will speak first to provide some background on SOIL. She will then provide an introduction to SOIL athlete, Daniel Johnson. Johnson is a native of Normal, Illinois, who won a silver medal in 400-meter snowshoeing (1:40.56) at the Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Turin, Italy, in March, 2025.

Johnson will speak about his experience to the group. He and Mayer will be available for one-on-one interviews following the formal part of their presentation.

SOIL has provided additional video/audio/information (which includes an interview with his coach, Jim Bluemond) on Daniel that you may choose to utilize within your story. Access it here: [www.ihsa.org/Journalism-State-Series](http://www.ihsa.org/Journalism-State-Series)

Using your own recording equipment, the interview, any of the additional materials provided by SOIL, and the background information, create a 75-second MP3 news broadcast clip with a minimum of two sound bites (including at least one from today Heartland) . Each story must end with: "Reporting for WMIL, this is (your name)."

Available equipment may include, but is not limited to: MP3 players, laptops, iPad, cell phones, and any other audio recorder.



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### SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

1. Upon completing your work, be sure your MP3 audio file is named with your four-digit school code.
2. Go to [www.ihsa.org/Journalism-State-Series](http://www.ihsa.org/Journalism-State-Series)
3. Find your event and click the “Submit Work” link that applies to it.
4. Select the MP3 file of your work to upload. In the First Name box, type your four-digit school code. In the Last Name box, re-type your four-digit school to confirm.
5. Once you are prompted that your document as uploaded successfully, please log out if you are using a Heartland Computer.

### PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Special Olympics Illinois Athlete from Normal Brings Home a Silver Medal at 2025 World Winter Games**

#### **March 20, 2025 –Normal, Ill. –Special Olympics**

Illinois athlete, Daniel Johnson of Normal, IL, made his mark on the world stage, bringing home a silver medal in the snowshoeing 400m event during the Special Olympics 2025 World Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

Johnson competed as part of the Special Olympics USA delegation from March 8 to March 15 and demonstrated his incredible talent, representing Illinois with pride.



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“Daniel has made Illinois proud with his dedication and hard work,” said Pete Beale-DelVecchio, President & CEO of Special Olympics Illinois. “His perseverance and success in Turin embody the spirit of Special Olympics Illinois, and we celebrate his incredible achievements.”

Johnson also placed fourth place in the men’s snowshoeing 800m event.

The Special Olympics 2025 World Winter Games brought together over 1,500 athletes from 103 countries, celebrating inclusion and excellence in sports. Special Olympics Illinois extends its gratitude to the coaches, supporters, and families who played a crucial role in these athletes’ journeys.

### **About Special Olympics Illinois**

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit sports organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 sports to a community of more than 60,000 traditional athletes, Young Athletes, Unified partners, coaches, volunteers, and more. It strives to be a global leader in shaping a culture where people with and without intellectual disabilities are fully integrated into the community by providing year-round opportunities in competitive sports, health education, leadership and personal development.