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October 20, 2006

## Special Olympics coach honored

Star staff report

A Special Olympics Indiana coach will be honored Saturday for winning a national award for people who serve as a sports role model for young people.

Cindi Hart has been selected by the National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS) as the recipient of the 2006 Hershey's STRIVE National Coach of the Year Award.

She will be honored on Saturday in a special presentation to take place during the Special Olympics Indiana Fall Classic at Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers. The event is sponsored by the NCYS and The Hershey Company. Hart will receive a check for \$2,500, which she has announced will be donated to the IndySpeed Sports Club.

Hart was selected for her expertise and ability to bring out the best in her student athletes while teaching athletes of all levels the life skills of compassion, perseverance and discipline. Even as she's being treated for breast cancer, Hart continues to be a role model as a coach and competitor to young athletes. Every day, she demonstrates to young speed skaters and cyclists that "all obstacles can be overcome" with a positive attitude, attainable goal setting, courage and resilience through adversity.

Hart founded the IndySpeed Sports Club, which focuses on Olympic cycling and speed skating. She has integrated Special Olympics Indiana athletes into the IndySpeed Sports Club.

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