

## THE SPECIAL ATHLETE

by:

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“Every one of us are unique, each of us has our own strength and weaknesses”.  
But have you ever thought how special and tough those learners with disability?

First let we know What are learners with disability. Learning disabilities are problems that affect the child's ability to receive, process, analyze or store information. They can make it difficult for this child to read, write, spell or solve math problems. Example of learners with disabilities are blind, deaf and mute, mentally retarded but also known as intellectual disabled, visually impaired, autism and so on.

Don't you wonder how these learners conquer and face the world every day? How hard and how challenging the simple things we can do. But do you know that they can also compete with learners without disabilities. They can also contend with us.

Here is Maria Cristina T. Rodrigo, a 16-year-old Lsen Learner of Tomas Pinpin Memorial Elementary School. She is under the supervision of Ronaldo Q. Datu. A loving child and siblings to her brother and sister. She was diagnosed as Intellectual Disability learner.

Her case wouldn't be easy as we think. Her condition will be tough in a way of simple things we can, but she cannot, simple count 1 to 100, familiarize ABC's and so on. But her condition isn't a hindrance to her, to show her talent and strength. She joined Palarong Pampaaran 2024, and she won 1st place and a gold medalist in running long jump, she also a silver medalist for 100 Meter run and 200 Meter run. She quotes “Masaya ako sa aking panalo, para po ito sa ating paaralan”

This shows that we can bring the bacon not thru academe but in other way round. How tough and wonderful those LSen learners to package and to conquer their fear just to give the best and represent our dear school with flying colors. We should not weigh the knowledge of others because we are different to each other, It seems looks like those easy things for us is the same to their and vice versa.

“Concentrate on the abilities your disability doesn't hinder and don't dwell on the things it interferes with. Be disabled physically, not in spirit” - Stephen Hawking.

*References:*

<https://www.child-encyclopedia.com/learning-disabilities>