

## Going for Gold April 24, 2008

By Lacey Nadeau

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When San Clemente High School senior Kevin Brouard heard about the Junior Blind Olympics, he jumped at the chance. "I figured I'd give it a shot," said Brouard, who, with the help of contacts, has 22/40 vision but is legally blind.

Throwing 55 feet, he broke the JBO shot put record last year, and this weekend he's going back for more. He'll also participate in the 100-yard dash, long jump and rock climbing competitions on Saturday, April 26 at the Los Angeles campus of Junior Blind of America, an organization that helps children and adults who are blind, visually impaired or multi-disabled achieve independence.

Brouard, who's on the varsity football and track and field teams, has Stargardt's Disease, a rare retinal disease that can result in complete blindness. But that's not the case for Brouard: Though he's legally blind and can't drive, his vision is stable.

In addition to his participation in JBO, he placed second in shot put at the 2007 International Blind Sports Association World Youth and Student Games, and this summer



Kevin Brouard will compete in the Junior Blind Olympics this weekend. Photo by Lacey Nadeau

he'll compete in the IBSA World Powerlifting Championships.

Brouard also plans to throw shot put in college; he's still deciding which university to attend. And he's setting his sights on the Paralympic Games, the sporting event for athletes from six disability groups, held the same year at the same venue as the Summer Games: London 2012. [www.juniorblind.org](http://www.juniorblind.org)

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