

Special Olympics set to unfold on weekend at ECS

The 1989 Saskatchewan Special Olympics are ready to go this weekend in Estevan.

Well over 240 athletes from eight zones will arrive in the Energy City on Friday night to ready themselves for a full day of competition at the Estevan Comprehensive School track and field facility on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

One of the highlights of the Olympics will be a gigantic torch run orchestrated by representatives of Saskatchewan police forces, which will bring the flame into Estevan on Friday night at round 9 or 10 o'clock. The flame will be the major focus of a city-wide parade on Saturday morning starting at 8:45 a.m., and the Olympics will be lit into action at the ECS field just before 10 a.m.

Olympics co-chairman Pat Birchall said the parade and police torch run will provide a special touch to the weekend event, but Saturday night will also prove to be of note as Premier Grant Devine is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the Olympics banquet at ECS.

The commonly-held superstar athletic competition will not be a part of this year's Special Olympics, according to Birchall, because of problems lining up enough professional competitors. An athlete is needed for each zone and Birchall said the task of finding eight famous names was difficult, so the competition was cancelled.

Closing ceremonies for the event will take place at 4 p.m. on Saturday at the ECS field and Sunday will be a day of travel for the athletes.