

Parish, Bourassa lead Zone One Special Olympians

B 6317

Georgina Parish collected three individual gold medals in the pool and Alyson Bourassa won two gold and a pair of silver in rhythmic gymnastics to lead a 44-medal performance by Zone 1 athletes at the Saskatchewan Special Olympics Summer Games held June 11-13 in Regina.

A dozen Estevan athletes were part of the 28-member zone team that competed at the event, with Parish, Bourassa, Sherry Morden, Ivan Mailhiot, Michael Tymchuk, Edward Slabick, Pauline Tuchscherer and Peter Marcotte all winning at least one medal.

Other team members from the city were Michael Samenook, Carol Humby, Adele Beaulieu and Mary Styre.

It was an excellent performance for the zone which had athletes competing in swimming, track and field, and rhythmic gymnastics. The only discipline the team did not enter athletes in was power lifting.

"We had a full count of athletes — 28 in total," said Zone 1 chef de mission Nicola Birchall, "and I would say at least three-quarters of them won medals."

Parish won her gold medals in the women's 25m freestyle, 25m breaststroke and 25m backstroke. She also won a fourth medal as a member of the 4x100m mixed relay team which finished second.

Marcotte also had a strong meet in the pool bringing home five medals by finishing first in men's 50m backstroke, winning silver in both the 50m freestyle and as a member of the relay team, and taking bronze in both the 25m backstroke and 25m freestyle.

Tuchscherer won gold in both women's 25m and 50m backstroke

events and added a bronze medal in the 25m freestyle.

In track and field, Tymchuk won silver in men's long jump and added bronze medals in the 100m race and as a member of the 4x100m relay team.

Mailhiot won gold in the men's 50m race and bronze as a relay team member.

Morden won silver in the women's 50m event, while Slabick took bronze with his performance in men's long jump.

Bourassa dominated rhythmic gymnastics events, winning gold in Level One ball and ribbon events and silver in both the Level One hoop and floor competitions.

The provincial games served as the qualifying event for the national summer games to be held next year in Halifax. Because of their performances, a number of Estevan athletes have the chance to be selected for the provincial team that will be named in July.

"It was very exciting because this year is a national qualifier," Birchall said. "You don't need to win to go, but if you medal your chances are better."

Coaches for the Zone 1 team at the provincial meet were Candace Gervais and Shari Wood for rhythmic gymnastics, Erin Walton and Chantelle Tschetter for swimming, and Peggy Borshowa, Rhonda Garrett and Roxena Dionne for track and field. Bev Glasser was the team manager.

Other coaches who did not attend the provincials are: Krista Boulton, George Parish, Marion Slabick, Daniel Parish and Wes Kreklewich and his Grade 9 students from Estevan Comprehensive.