

Special Olympics

A very special group of athletes will compete in Moose Jaw this weekend.

They aren't professional hockey players or high paid football stars but what they do is just as exciting and perhaps is even more meaningful.

The event is the Saskatchewan Special Olympics and the competitors are more than 200 mentally retarded individuals who have already competed in zone finals to win the right to appear in Moose Jaw.

There is a certain excitement in watching these athletes participating in the swimming, bowling and track and field events comprising the format of the Games. One feels a personal sense of involvement in each achievement, in each disappointment, more so than in the wins and losses of a professional hockey team or baseball team.

Some people might be skeptical of the abilities of the mentally retarded as far as athletics are concerned but while they may not be able to function in other ways acceptable to "normal" society, they can indeed run and jump and swim with the best of them . . . and in many cases, with a great deal more ability.

A local committee has been working diligently the last few months preparing for the weekend and chairman Norm Campbell is to be congratulated for his efforts.

The committee's work is nearly done and now it is up to the rest of the community to support the Special Olympics by visiting Gutheridge Field, the Bowling Centre and the pool to cheer on the athletes who are coming from all over the province.

It is their weekend . . . let's make sure it is truly "special".