

Outlook Strikes Gold At Provincial Meet In Melfort

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(Special Olympic News - Vern Gessner)

On Friday, February 12, three Special Olympians headed out for Melfort to attend the Provincial Special Olympics Winter Games. They were Betty Zboril, Kirk Brown and Gary Thom.

We arrived at 6 p.m., registered, ate and then attended the opening ceremonies. We were piped in with bagpipes. Attending dignitaries were Carol Carson minister of sport, culture and recreation; Mike Dougherty president of Sask. Special Olympics and Arnold Orr, the mayor of Melfort.

A Blessing was given by Father Muring and the Athletes' Creed was given by Joanne Magnus. The Olympic flame was lit and the games were officially declared open by president Mike.

We were then royally treated to a variety program. There were Ukrainian Dancers, two skits, a folk group, a Christian rock band and various singers. It was a very entertaining evening.

When we returned to our rooms that evening we were pleasantly surprised to find a late night lunch waiting for us.

Saturday morning, after a break-



Gary Thom, Betty Zboril and Kirk Brown performed well at the Winter Games In Melfort.

fast of pancakes, eggs and sausages, we were off to our various events. Kirk and Gary and I were off to the Melfort Golf Course to the cross country skiing venue.

Meanwhile, Betty was off to the Melfort Complex to the figure skating venue with her personal coach, Florence Krillow of North

Battleford.

Kirk and Gary both did Outlook proud. Kirk finished third in the level II - 100 metre event and received a bronze medal for his effort. He also finished fifth in the level II - 400 metre event.

Gary finished fourth in both the 100 metre and 400 metre level I events.

Betty was in fine form, finishing first in junior ladies - level I event. She received the gold medal for her effort. This was a warm-up for her as she will be leaving for Austria to the World Winter Special Olympic Games sometime in March to compete in figure skating for Canada.

The events and medal presen-

tations were over by 2:30 p.m. This gave us some time to snooze, relax and get ready for the banquet, awards and dance.

At 6:30 p.m. the banquet began and awards were presented. The games were officially closed and the dance began. By 11 p.m. the dance was over. The athletes were tired and ready for bed. Unfortunately for Gary, Kirk and I the day was not done. Because of a prior commitment, I had to be back at Outlook by early Sunday. We left Melfort Saturday night. It was 2 a.m. when we got home, tired but happy.

As for Betty, it was dance 'til you drop and another night at the motel. Sunday morning was an ecumenical church service followed by brunch.

Roy and Birdie Zboril were also in attendance to cheer Betty on. It was nice to see some parent participation.

Hats off to the City of Melfort and its Special Olympics Club and volunteers. We felt that this was just an excellent effort and a job well done.