

Special Olympics begin here Friday

Approximately 240 handicapped athletes from Saskatchewan will arrive in Prince Albert Friday to take part in the Provincial Special Olympics Events will include bowling, swimming and track and field.

Athletes from the eight provincial zones will register Friday afternoon and the bowling competition gets under way after a mini-opening ceremony at 4 p.m. at Sportman Bowl.

Another mini-opening will precede the swimming event Friday at 7 p.m. at the Frank J. Dunn Pool.

The official opening ceremonies will take place at the exhibition grounds Saturday at 9 a.m. Various dignitaries will greet the competitors and Games' chairman Marv Kolke, of Prince Albert, will declare the Games open. Honorary head coach George Reed will lead the athletes oath.

The track and field events begin at 9:15 a.m. They include the 50 and 100-metre dashes, the 4 by 50 and 4 by 100 relays, standing and running long jumps, high jump, soccer kick and softball throw.

The closing ceremonies, to be

held immediately following the competition of Saturday's events, will include presentation of medals, lowering of the Games flag and extinguishing of the torch.

There is no admission charge to any of the events and spectators are welcome at any time.

The provincial games are one of the annual events of the Saskatchewan Special Olympics Society. SSOS is also involved in year-round planning for participation, participant development, skill development and technical training in the areas of physical recreation and competitive sports for mentally handicapped people.

The first Saskatchewan Special Olympic Games were held in Regina in June, 1970. This was the result of a joint effort of the Saskatchewan Association for the Mentally Retarded and the Knights of Columbus who, early in 1969, began a plan to develop, promote and maintain a province-wide program of physical activity and recreation for mentally handicapped children and adults. One of the people involved in the 1969 venture was Marv Kolke, the chairman of this year's games.