

Sunny kickoff to Special Olympics

By DAVID MOSER
L-P Sports Writer

The sun made a special appearance Friday at Douglas Park. The heavy clouds and rain, which had been intermittent, stayed away as the colorful opening ceremonies kicked off the 1993 Saskatchewan Special Olympics Summer Games on Friday evening.

Approximately 200 Special Olympics athletes from six provincial sport zones paraded onto the track. The Games will feature competition today in swimming, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics and track and field. Many athletes are hoping to qualify for the 1994 Canadian Special Olympics Summer Games in Halifax.

It was noted that the Games, which are for people with a mental handicap, would not have been possible without the support of hundreds of volunteers.

"Members of the Special Olympics society can be proud that they are contributing to a long and distinguished tradition in our province — the tradition of volunteerism," said Lt.-Gov. Sylvia Fedoruk.

"Saskatchewan people are noted for their community spirit and willingness to devote their time, energy and talent to help others.

"It reflects a desire to enable all individuals to play a full part in society. Every man and woman has worth and dignity and we should all be given an opportunity to achieve our potential in as many ways as possible."

The highlight of the opening ceremonies was the completion of the provincial law enforcement torch run. Approximately 500 law enforcement officers, led by athletes from Regina (Zone 2), escorted the Games' torch into Douglas Park.

The torch run ended with Regina athlete Clay Helmsing and Const. Lorne Gelowitz of the Saskatoon City Police lighting the Games' flame.

Later Gelowitz, chairman of the torch run, presented Saskatchewan Special Olympics Society president Mike Doherty of Prince Albert with a cheque for \$70,500. The money was raised by 26 provincial law

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

1993 SASKATCHEWAN SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES

SCHEDULE OF TODAY'S EVENTS

Event	Where	When
Track and field	Douglas Park	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Swimming	U of R pool	9 a.m.-noon
Powerlifting	U of R gym	9 a.m.-noon
Rhythmic gymnastics	U of R gym	11 a.m.-noon

Athletes are competing from: Zone 1 (Weyburn-Estevan); Zone 2 (Regina); Zone 4 (Yorkton); Zone 5 (Humboldt-Watrous); Zone 6 (Saskatoon); and, Zone 8 (Prince Albert-Melfort-La Ronge).

enforcement agencies during the torch run.

The third annual Saskatchewan Youth 10-hour relay on June 5 raised over \$8,000 for the society.

The athletes' oath was parachuted into the opening ceremonies by members of the Skydive South Saskatchewan Club from Regina. The oath was read by Regina athlete Tristan Zimmerman.

The Special Olympians, who are staying at the athletes village at Luther College on the University of Regina campus, are expected to have breakfast this morning with members of the CFL's Saskatchewan Roughriders and breakfast on Sunday with members of the WHL's Regina Pats.

The 1994 Saskatchewan Special Olympics Summer Games are slated for Yorkton.



Leader-Post photo by Bryan Schlosser

Clay Helmsing (left) and Lorne Gelowitz light the flame