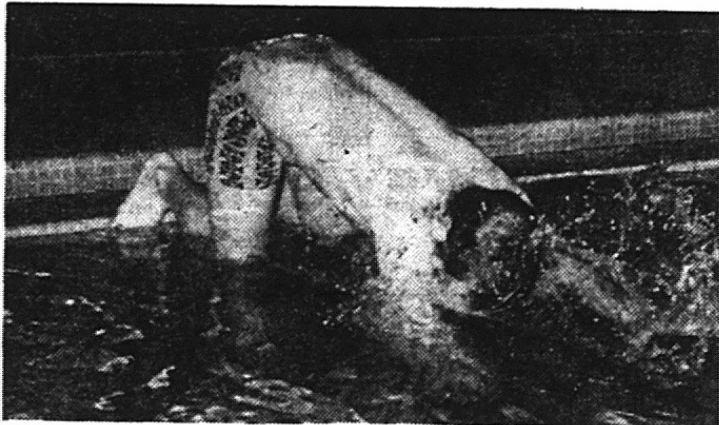


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Accent on fun in Special Olympics



By DALE EISLER
L-P Sports Writer

There is something very special about the Special Olympics.

In terms of excellence, it doesn't rank with other competitive sports event, but if success is a factor it is on a par with any.

Six years ago the concept of the Special Olympics, a program for the mentally handicapped, was put into action. Today, organizers think the effort has been worthwhile.

It is designed for youngsters like 18-year-old Randy Whitelock of Moose Jaw, who, according to his coach and teacher, Vic Sapergia, has been benefitting from the program since its inception.

Whitelock is one of 240 athletes from around the province who are in town for the two-day event that started on Friday afternoon and ends today.

Although he finished second in the 25 and 50-metre swim events at the University of Regina pool Friday afternoon, Whitelock's coach didn't seem concerned. The accent is on participation and fun.

Friday's schedule included swimming and bowling, while track and field was slated for Miller Collegiate today.

Whitelock is a student at John Chisholm School in Moose Jaw, where Sapergia teaches.

"The Special Olympics mean a tremendous amount to kids like Randy," Sapergia said. "Especially for the kids from our school because swimming is such an important part of our program."

The students at John Chisholm go to the YM-YWCA in Moose Jaw for an hour-and-a-half swim session every week. Sapergia, along with

another teacher at the school and a paid instructor, teach the students the basics of swimming.

According to Sapergia, the concept behind the Special Olympics is aimed more at building the character of the participants.

"Taking part in things like this make it easier for them to talk to people, to listen to and follow instructions," he said.

Sapergia admitted that he has seen a marked improvement in Whitelock in a number of areas since the first time he took part in the Special Olympics five years ago.

"Although he didn't win, his time has improved considerably," Sapergia said. "But that doesn't really matter. The amazing thing is how these kids make friends and what is just as surprising is how they remember the kids they meet here from one year to the next."

Companionship seems to be the major factor in the Special Olympics program. Sapergia said that Whitelock, in fact, appreciates more the district meet, which is held prior to the provincial event.

"I think most of the kids look forward to the district meet when all the kids can participate," he said.

Whatever the case, Sapergia admitted that he gets great personal satisfaction from working with the mentally handicapped. Prior to his present position at John Chisholm, Sapergia was the principal at a high school in Herbert, Sask.

"This kind of work really gives you a lift," he added. "You know, these kids will do anything for you. They're terrific."

—L-P photos by Ian Caldwell

Robbie Haars of Regina looked like he had second thoughts before taking plunge in 25-metre swim event

Former treasurer indicted

HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. (AP) — Leo Gerald Lamoureux, former treasurer of the North American Hockey League, was indicted Wednesday on charges of

of the World Hockey Association.
He resigned both posts last February, about the time the Cougars' franchise was moved