

# City ready for Special Olympics event

By BRIAN COSTELLO

Sun sports editor

Upwards of 240 handicapped athletes are expected to attend the 1987 Saskatchewan Special Olympic Games in Swift Current June 19 and 20.

The Comprehensive High School will be the site as special olympic athletes from eight zones across the province compete in a variety of track and field events.

"The Games serve as a catalyst to get special olympic athletes involved in sport and the community to get involved in them," said special olympics director Mark Ketter, in town to promote the weekend.

"A lot of volunteer work has to be laid to put on such an event. The athletes have been training for months

at the local level to prepare themselves.

Ketter said competitiveness and fun are the prime objectives of the Games. In Swift Current, it will be unique.

"For the first time, the Games will be in a village set-up, where the participants are fed, housed and entertained in one location," said Ketter. "The social component and interaction will be a first and hopefully lay some groundwork for future possibilities."

Last spring, Swift Current was approached by the Special Olympics Association to stage the '87 Games. People were recruited for a management committee with Bob L'Heureux and Joyce Wilton serving as co-chairmen.

The first task was to break the scenario down to seven areas to make it more of a community effort.

Glen Rittinger heads the Games Services committee looking after the accommodations, meals and transportation.

The Special Services sector will be looked after by Larry Jensen and involves awards presentations and VIP service.

Jim Sirrs and Bryan Tallon combine to work in the Sport Services field, taking care of the events and results.

Bob Benjamin is in charge of the Finance Committee, considering the budget and legal services.

The Administrative Services is headed by Al Heinrichs taking care of medical, communications and

scheduling inquiries.

At Scott looks after the Friends of the Games group, which includes fund-raising, grants and souvenirs. The final committee has Barry Cuthbert in charge of public relations and promotions for the Games.

Serving as chief of mission is Greg Smith, assisted by Val Smith. They are the information resource centre.

In addition to the 240 special olympic athletes, 300 other volunteers and coaches offer their services. And just because the participants may be handicapped doesn't mean there isn't competition.

"Some are very keen and eager to win, while for others, simply being there meets their needs," explained Ketter. "Most of them don't like to lose

They can be noisy about it."

The athletes will be divided into six groups and partake in: running, throwing, long jump, soccer kicking, relay events, swimming, bowling and horseshoes.

In the event Mother Nature doesn't cooperate on June 20, a contingency plan to have the events run inside the Comp gym has been set up.

First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded for each event with medals given to section winners. All others receive participation ribbons.

A financial look at the Games reveals the retail cost of formulating the annual event is about \$20,000.

However, a large portion is covered by donations and corporate sponsors. The response thus far has been ex-

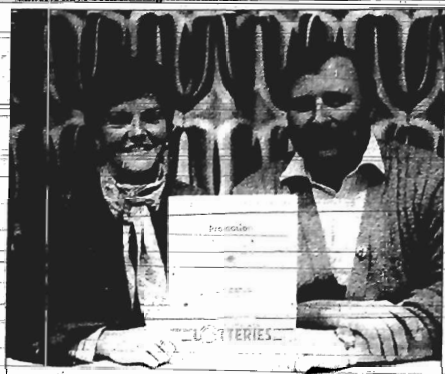
ceptional, according to the financial committee. The Motor Dealers Association of Swift Current has donated \$3,500, the Knights of Columbus over \$2,000 and the Malcolm Banks family a healthy portion.

Many local groups and individuals have donated to Special Olympics, many of those reported in The Sun over the past weeks.

Donations are expected to exceed \$15,000, or about one-half the cost to field the program. A grant from Saskatchewan Lotteries adds another chunk of funding.

"We shouldn't have to scrimp and scratch too much," says L'Heureux.

Volunteers can donate their time and service by calling AT at 773-0631.



CO-CHAIRPERSONS of the local Special Olympics committee, Joyce Wilton and Bob L'Heureux, head up a working group of people who are arranging the eight zone

athletic event for the handicapped from around the province, Saskatchewan Lotteries has helped funding through a grant. (Sun photo).

## ...super athlete a big highlight

June 19 & 20

By BRIAN COSTELLO

Sun sports editor

A special event at the Saskatchewan Special Olympics in Swift Current later this month will be the Super Athlete Competition.

Eight teams, from each of the province's eight zones, will compete, each consisting of one professional athlete, one special olympics athlete and one media personality.

There will be three track and field events including the standing long jump, the 50 metre sprint and the shuttle relay. However, no points will be awarded for this competition as it is a fun activity for the athletes and volunteers.

Current Bronco players Sheldon Kennedy and Trevor Kruger are two of the celebrities involved in the action. The others are Marc Habscheid (Team Canada), Dean

Kennedy (Los Angeles Kings), Kelly Chase (Saskatoon Blades), Kurt Wickenshield (University of Regina), Perry Fafard (Yorkton Terriers) and Scott Kobernaski (North Battleford North Stars).

Brad McCrimmon from the Philadelphia Flyers was a late scratch. Each of the eight zones will select their special olympic athlete to team up with a celebrity and media member.

"A lot of people will be surprised with what the special olympians show," said Joyce Wilton, Games co-chairman. "They are very knowledgeable about sport and have been practising a lot."

"It's a unique experience for them to enjoy the fellowship of a super athlete. They will acquire the physical and social skills and the added self-confidence you can see it in their faces."

"You realize how much it means to them when they trade sweaters (with the celebrity) and put it on over the suits and tie their parents sent them to wear," she said.

OTTAWA (CP)—Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and the premiers achieved unanimous agreement to amend Canada's Constitution today in exhausting overnight talks that ended as dawn broke over Parliament Hill.

It is a strong and compelling statement of national unity," Mulroney told reporters just after sunrise.

The agreement brings "Quebec into the Canadian family" and brings "Canada much more closely together," the prime minister said, looking surprisingly fresh.

"But because it is a document composed by human beings it is, of course, not perfect."

A ceremony to sign the agreement was to take place at noon today. The deal follows the tentative Meech Lake constitutional accord reached April 30 at a government retreat north of Ottawa.

Details weren't immediately released. The pact must be still ap-

proved by Parliament and provincial legislatures within three years at the most.

Mulroney and the provincial leaders gathered behind closed doors at 10 a.m. Tuesday to ratify the Meech-Lake document, which had been called a golden opportunity to get Quebec into the constitutional fold.

A GREAT DAY

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa called the deal a "great day for Quebec and a great day for Canada."

He told reporters his province won't have a new clause, in addition to gains made at Meech Lake, that adds protection for the French language.

Quebec also apparently emerged with few if any changes to a clause recognizing it as a distinct society. Part of that section had been attacked by critics who said it would divide the country.

"It's formal recognition of Quebec's special role in Canada," the premier said.

Liberal Leader John Turner, who had supported the Meech Lake accord with reservations about some wording, declined comment today, saying he hadn't read even a new agreement.

Liberal MP Don Johnston, who gave up his shadow cabinet post to oppose the accord, also wouldn't comment immediately.

NDP Leader Ed Broadbent said he was encouraged by the success but wants to study details on how it treats several key issues.

NOT AS EFFUSIVE

Manitoba-NDP Premier Howard Pawley, who had mounted a last-minute campaign for guarantees Ottawa wouldn't lose power to set up new national programs like child care, said the country didn't appear as effusive as Bourassa.

The Meech Lake accord would have

allowed compensation to provinces opting out of new shared-cost programs, if they established similar schemes in line with national objectives.

Pawley walked into the meeting demanding a guarantee that Ottawa would define national objectives in such cases and there seemed to be some confusion afterward whether he had won out.

Provincial officials had indicated at various times as the talks dragged on that the Quebec clause and the section on federal spending power had deadlocked the talks.

Pawley and Ontario's David Peterson said Ottawa would define national standards. But Harold Fournier, Bourassa's press secretary, told reporters the provinces would set the objectives of their programs.

The document is not perfect by any means, but it is a first-looking Pawley said.

"I will be recommending the document of course to our legislature. That's not to say it's carved in stone."

As I've indicated, it's an improvement over the original, yet it obviously is still not a perfect document. "British Columbia's Bill Vander Zalm and Alberta Premier Don Getty opposed Pawley's stand as they entered the talks."



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# They've done it! pact on constitution signed

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### Chief drives truck home

Fire Chief Art Dale should soon be arriving home with a new fire pumper truck.

Chief Dale joined up the truck at Red Deer and then took it to the Fire Chiefs' Convention in Prince Albert, where he was named.