

Computer sorted results to streamline Olympics

By Michele Jakob
Enterprise Staff

What seemed to be no problem at first turned out to be more difficult than anticipated.

But in the end, it worked.

Sandy Baron wrote the computer program used to tally the scores at the Special Olympics held in

Yorkton last weekend. This was the first time a computer was used to keep a running tally of the results.

"I had written a pro-

gram for the Parkland Lions Indoor Games," Baron said. She thought she could use the same program for the Special Olympics.

"But it didn't work out. I had to start from scratch." She hadn't realized how different the Special Olympics was from a regular track meet.

With the regular track meet Baron previously programmed, there was eight different age classes with seven events for each age. Special Olympics entailed six age classes broken down to four ability classes for each age group. These groups were further allotted a maximum of 15 events for the male and female categories.

Baron was looking at a possible 500 events and there was no way the computer could take so many files. She made a file for each event: bowling, swimming, and track events. These were sorted from youngest woman to oldest men.

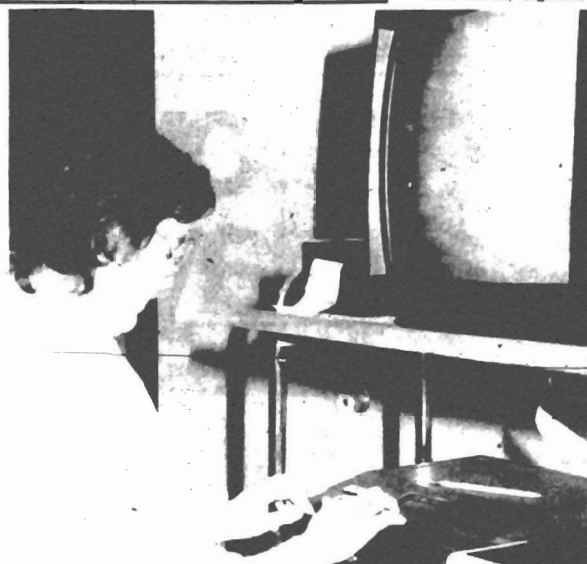
Just because a computer was used doesn't mean all ran smoothly. There were a few problems, beginning Friday night.

"I gave it a run through and discovered a major flaw in the logic," she said. After changing it, she discovered the computer would not give a final point total.

The problem remained until Saturday morning when it was fixed and from then on "everything worked out fine."

Without the assistance of the computer, Sandy Baron, Les Herauf and all the volunteers who worked in the computer room at the Regional Saturday, it certainly would have taken longer to obtain competition results.

"It used to take me four days to record results for a track meet," Baron said.



SANDY BARON AND her aides were behind the scenes of the 14th annual Special Olympics held in Yorkton last weekend. They tallied all the scores of each event as they came in.

Baron is interested in computer programming and after devising a program for the Lions Indoor games she thought she would do the same for the Olympics. Although it wasn't as easy as she

originally estimated Baron's program did achieve the ultimate goal in perfect time. By awards night Saturday, all results were tallied — a job that could have taken days.

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