

Special Olympics meet a success

by JO-ANNE PELISSE

According to all involved with the provincial Special Olympic Games, held in Yorkton on the weekend, they were a complete success.

More than 250 athletes, representing eight zones throughout Saskatchewan, participated in the games which included bowling, swimming and track and field events.

Zone 4's team, representing Yorkton and district, consisted of 28 athletes, many of whom took home first-place ribbons.

The Zone 4 athletes enjoyed themselves and are already looking forward to competing in next year's Special Olympics meet.

Claude Perron of Zone 4 is already planning to apply for one of the more important jobs at any Olympic games.

"Next year, I'm gonna light the torch, by myself," he says.

His favorite events of the games this year were the swimming (where he won four ribbons) and bowling.

Zone 4's Jeff Langley will be back again next year as well.

His favorite event was the soccer ball kick, and he says he made a lot of new friends at the games.

Greg Bottomly, also of Zone 4, who takes his events seriously, enjoyed the races the most.

Of one particular race, he says, "I thought I had a first place, but I didn't get it."

"I must have lost my

speed," he adds.

After the events of Saturday, the athletes attended a dinner and dance at the Agriplex Convention Centre.

Several dignitaries were present at the banquet, including Yorkton MLA Lorne McLaren, mayor John Wytzykush and Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan C. Irwin McIntosh.

In a speech to the athletes, Mr. McIntosh told them he admired their enthusiasm.

"Don't ever lose that spirit," he says.

The spirit of the competition was the main part of the meet for the athletes, following the motto of the Saskatchewan Special Olympics, the Athlete's Oath: Let me win, but if I can't win, let me be brave in the attempt.

Overall, Zone 4 placed fourth in the games, finishing with 259 points.

Zone 2 topped the standings at the games with 446 points. In second spot was Zone 8 with 363 points.

With 325, Zone 7 placed third.

In fifth spot, was Zone 3 with 252, followed by Zone 6 in sixth spot with 249.

Zone 1, with 217, placed seventh, with Zone 5 in last place with 128.

Special Olympic events took place at the Yorkton Bowl Arena, the Parkland Agriplex and Century Field.

The athletes were divided into different age groups and levels for competition against other zones.

The actual games started

GAMES

Friday with bowling.

The averages were sorted for the ages and levels of the bowlers.

Rick Mahussier from Zone 3 took the Andy Schuck Trophy for the male high single in bowling. His average was 128.5.

Ina Katcheech of Zone 7 won the Harry Shukin Trophy for the female high single. Her average in the event was 162.

Following the bowling and supper, the swimming events took place at the Agriplex.

Prior to these, a synchronized swimming demonstration was presented to the athletes by the Parkland Synchro Club.

The events were held in order of the age and level of the athletes.

Shane Haddad of Zone 2 won the Geisinger Trophy, presented to the best male swimmer.

The award for the best female swimmer was awarded to Jackie Scott of Zone 8.

Both Shane and Scott were awarded the George Reed Trophy presented to the top male and female athletes of the games.

The trophies were presented by George Reed, former Saskatchewan Roughrider

and the Special Olympics honorary coach.

The Knights of Columbus Trophy, presented to the rookie of the year, was awarded to Lawrence Finich from Zone 5.

Robbie Bombair, of Zone 2, received the Jessie Owens Trophy for the fastest 100-metre run. He finished in 14.3 seconds.

The Ward Gibson Trophy, presented for the best male performance in shot put went to Terry Livingstone of Zone 2, who tossed the shot 9.32 feet.

For the best female performance in shot put, the Ramona Braun Trophy went to Dixie Lott of Zone 3. She threw the shot 5.96 feet.

Besides his bowling award, Rick Mahussier of Zone 2 received the North Battleford Olde Tymers Hockey Trophy for having the fastest 400-metre run, completing the race in 71.7 seconds.

He also won the Leo Weigers Trophy for the fastest 200-metre run, completing it in 30.7 seconds.

The top male and female level 3 athletes this year were Judie Aadland of Zone 3 and Peter Romashenko of Zone 2. They were presented with the Harold Miller Trophy.

Zone 8 was named the winner of the 200-metre relay, with a 38.8-second run.

In the superstar competition, which took place Saturday, Zone 7 came out on top with Brad McLinnon of the Philadelphia Flyers and Special Olympic athlete Norman Linell competing as a team.

Each team had its own celebrity athlete who is local to the zone.

Zone 7 had a final point standing of 24 in the superstar competition.

In second spot was Zone 5 with Peter Watson competing with Dan Goebel. Their final point total was 20.

Zone 2 took third spot in the competition. Doug Wickenheiser of the Montreal Canadiens and Robbie Bombair competed together to collect 18 points.

Zone 4 took fourth spot with 15 points. Dennis Polonich of the Detroit Red Wings competed with Kelly Ledoux.

Zone 3 was fifth with Rocky Trotter teaming up with Roy Whitlock to pick up 13 points.

Terry Shalley and Allan Scribner teamed up to gain sixth position and 9.5 points.

Seventh position was taken by Gail Harris and Henry J. Lucier of Zone 8.

In eighth and last spot was Zone 1, with Randy Woytowich and Rhinart Eisbrenner.

The superstar competition was a quadrathlon, consisting

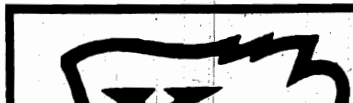
of a 50-metre race, standing long jump and a snazzy relay. Points were calculated by

comparing all eight team scores and awarding eight points for the best score, seven

for the second best, in descending order to one point for the lowest score.



LUNCHEBREAK...Over 200 athletes, as well as numerous volunteers, took a break for lunch during Saturday's track and field events at Century Field. Lunch was provided by the Parkland Lion L's who made over 750 sandwiches for the athletes.



Men's

Sale starts Wed.
June 22!