

Special Olympians bring home medals

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The 1993 Saskatchewan Special Olympics was very special indeed to five Yorkton athletes.

They brought home a total of eight medals for their participation in the games that were held in Melfort Feb. 13.

Tim Beattie, Eddie Cote, Rodney Corroll and Larry and Billy Kowbell were second overall in the cross country skiing competition, where they finished with 60 points.

Shirley-Ann Wing, who coaches the team along with Dennis Cooper, said the pile of medals was even

more gratifying for the athletes because all but Larry Kowbell were participating in their first competition.

"I was very proud of our athletes," Wing said, adding with the lack of snow this year the team was only able to train from December on under the tutelage of Shirley Gaitens.

Rodney Corroll of Churchbridge picked up three gold medals for winning event 19, the 800 metres, event 16, the one-kilometre and event 20, the three-kilometre races. His times were 4:46.01, 5:25.66 and 20:19.69 re-

spectively.

Finishing first in the event 15 one-kilometre race was Larry Kowbell of Yorkton with a time of 6:16.27. Kowbell placed second for the silver in event 19, the 800 metres, clocking in at 4:47.17.

Yorkton's Eddie Cote was second in event 16, the one-kilometre race

with a time of 5:38.63 and fourth in event 18, the 800-metres, racing to a 4:52.63 finish.

In event 13, the 400 metres, Tim Beattie of Yorkton finished fourth at the 4:22.70 mark.

Yorkton's Billy Kowbell place fourth in event nine, the 400 metres and event six, the 100 metres, with

times of 4:21.57 and 49.06 respectively.

The different heats were based on the ability of the athlete, rather than their ages.

With the age of the Yorkton team running from 26 to 40, Wing saw the need to recruit younger athletes and women into the winter games since

Yorkton athletes have always been activer in summer events.

"Some of that is public awareness," she said. "To teach the spirit and to mature socially you have to make sure they have the opportunity to develop."

And the Special Olympics are a great place to develop, she added