

Summer Games '90

Swimmers saving best for last

by DON SCHAFFER
Sports Editor

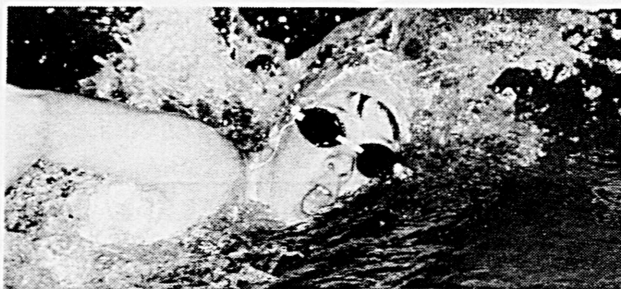
If this year's Summer Games swim meet is anything like last year's, the most exciting race of the three-day meet will come at the very last.

Janet Sieb, zone co-ordinator of the Canadian Amateur Swim Association's contingent at the Games, said the meet will feature swimmers from six different provincial associations sharing pool time.

But the big moment of the 1989 Games meet was the race in which each zone took one swimmer from each of its six groups, put them on relay teams and ran what's known as the zone integrated relay.

"They did it for the first time last year," Sieb said, "and it was incredible."

"They took one swimmer each from CASA, BCSSA



Swimming features teams from six provincial groups.

(B.C. Summer Swimming Association), Special Olympics, hearing impaired, visually impaired and cerebral palsy, put them on a team per zone and let them go.

"It was just great to see the kids cheering each other on. The Special Olympics and CP swimmers were cheering for everyone, and everyone was cheering for them. There were tears in a lot of eyes, I'll tell you."

Sieb said the integrated relay is the logical extension of the integration of swimmers that's been happening at Games meets for the past several years.

"Mostly, the CASA swimmers swim at CASA meets, the summer swimmers have their own meets and everyone else works the same way. This spring and summer we've had Barracudas (the host city's winter club)

swimming in Pisces (summer club) meets, and Pisces at the Barracuda meets, so we've been getting together a little bit.

"But at the Games, mostly the winter club kids stick together, and the summer club kids do the same. They know each other from meets, so they stick together."

Swimming begins Friday at 6:45 a.m. with warmups and at 3 p.m. Saturday with warmups. Sunday's swimming begins at 8 a.m. with awards from the previous night. Warmups start at 9.

The BCSSA contingent is the biggest, with 126 swimmers registered. Next is CASA with 82, while hearing impaired and Special Olympics have 16 and 15, respectively.

CP and visually impaired swimmers comprise the last 16 entries.

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