

Champions

Athletes outdistance handicaps

The Oregon Special Olympics attracted thousands of participants, coaches and volunteers to Hayward Field on Friday and Saturday. Over 1,700 competitors took part in track and field events designed for mentally and physically handicapped athletes.

Opening ceremonies Friday afternoon brought University Pres. Paul Olum, Portland Trailblazer coach Jack Ramsay and Oregon State University football coach Joe Avezzano to

the field.

Participants paraded around Stevenson's Track prior to the lighting of the Special Olympic torch. Opening ceremonies also included the Marist High School stage band and a shower of skydivers.

Paul Olum looks over his shoulder as he leaves the VIP stand. The opening ceremonies are just ending. He is smiling.

"I had tears in my eyes watching those kids march around the track," he says.

"The looks in their faces were just wonderful."

The loudspeaker broadcasts the first events. Olum looks around the crowded track.

"This event is really great," he adds. "I was really very moved."

The competitors took part in 13 events, including the 50- and 200-yard dash, standing broad jump and softball throw. Volunteers and coaches numbered almost 1,000. Many volunteers worked as "official huggers," greeting and cheering participants at the finish line.

The University Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity chapter volunteered as supporters for the event. Other groups which donated their time included the American Legion and the Eugene Active 20-30 Club.

A young girl running in the 200-yard dash is finishing last. She watches the others cross the line before her. Frustrated, she stops ten yards short. The huggers behind the finish line call to her. One stretches out her arms. The girl's face lights up.

She crosses the finish line, into the hugger's arms.

"The Olympics are what we talk about all year," said a Grants Pass special education teacher. "The kids plan for them and practice for them. It's really their highlight."

She added that the independence the students get — an overnight stay in Eugene, a Friday night dance — is just as important as the Olympics.

"Many of these kids don't know they're competing," she pointed out. "The medals, the hugs, the crowds. That's what they understand."

A hugger looks sadly toward the awards booth.

"There was one little boy who got first in his race," she says. "He knew it, too. But the judges gave him an eighth-place



Photo by Brent Walth

An Oregon Special Olympics volunteer hugs a smiling athlete who has crossed the finish line.

ribbon instead. How do you explain that to him?"

She looks to the crowd stands and slowly shakes her head.

"I'd like to grab a whole box of those medals and give them out to all these kids. They all try so hard."

Nearly all Oregon counties were represented, according to Olympics officials. "You can't even begin to count all the schools involved," said one organizer.

"These games are the culmination of a year's training for these children and young adults," said Mike Sanford, Oregon Special Olympics chapter president.

A teenager tentatively

approaches the VIP stand with pen and program in hand. Five minutes later he runs back to his friends, laughing and waving his hands.

Jack Ramsay autographed his program.

The Oregon Special Olympics, sponsored in part by the Kennedy Foundation, receives most of its financial support through contributions and fund-raising events.

A teenage girl has won a bronze medal in the frisbee competition. Grinning, she will show it to anyone who will look. When she gets home, she says, she will show it to "everyone."

By Brent Walth



Photo by Erich Boekelheide

The lighting of the torch marked the opening of the 1982 Oregon Special Olympics at Hayward Field on Friday.

emu Main Desk

Presents
Our Famous

**LOST & FOUND
SALE**

Tuesday, May 11

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
in rooms 108 & 109 E.M.U.

**ALMOST ANYTHING YOU
WANT OR NEED!**

CHINA BLUE RESTAURANT

Now serving **LUNCH**
Monday thru Friday 11-4

SOUP & SALADS

Salad served with your choice of Oil & Vinegar, Blue Cheese, Thousand Island or French Dressing

1. Tossed Green Salad \$1.95
2. Chef's Salad \$2.30
Tomato, Egg, Cheddar Cheese & Ham
3. Soup and Salad \$1.40
Garden fresh vegetables served with a cup of soup.
4. Bowl of Soup \$1.50

Different soup made daily.

COMBINATION

Make your own combination plate by choosing one item from each group below.

- A. B-B-Q Pork Fried Rice
- B. Pork Chow Mein
- C. Sweet & Sour Chicken Wings
1. Braised Bean Curd • \$2.50
2. Beef Broccoli • \$2.80
3. Sweet and Sour Pork • \$2.45
4. Shrimp Egg Rolls • \$2.40
5. Pineapple Sweet and Sour Chicken • \$3.00
6. Three Shreds with Bean Sprouts • \$2.65
Shredded Pork, Bamboo, Black Wood Ear and Bean Sprouts
7. Fried Mushrooms • \$2.10
8. Sweet and Sour Fish • \$2.50
9. Curry Beef • \$2.80
10. Special of the Day