

Kennedy Foundation Backs Chicago Athletic Event

In Soldier Field on July 20, the Chicago Park District and the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation will co-sponsor the Chicago Special Olympics, an athletic event geared to participation by the mentally retarded.

This will be the first such athletic program of this nature to be presented by any group or municipality anywhere in the world.

One thousand retarded children from all over the country will take part in field, track and swimming events. Also, there will be special events in which the children will be joined by guest celebrities such as Bob Mathias and Jesse Owens.

These demonstrations will show the physical educational

development and many recreational pastimes that the retarded child is able to do, such as bowling, roller skating, bicycle riding, trampoline, volleyball, and baton twirling.

The purpose of the Chicago Special Olympics is to have the children enjoy the thrill of participating in an athletic contest complete with the pageantry of the lighting of the torch, the flag raising, the bands, and finally, the awards presentation ceremony.

The Chicago Special Olympics should stimulate other municipalities throughout the country to initiate leisure time activities for the mentally retarded, enabling them to become contributing members of the family and of society.