

ULU NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 2006 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES WWW.AWG2006.ORG ISSUE NO. 5 / MARCH 9, 2006

Medal Counts

Alaska:

Gold:	36
Silver:	31
Bronze:	25
Total:	92

Alberta North:

Gold:	11
Silver:	14
Bronze:	14
Total:	39

Greenland:

Gold:	6
Silver:	6
Bronze:	2
Total:	14

Northwest Territories:

Gold:	16
Silver:	15
Bronze:	22
Total:	53

Nunavik Québec:

Gold:	7
Silver:	5
Bronze:	4
Total:	16

Nunavut:

Gold:	8
Silver:	8
Bronze:	12
Total:	28

Saami:

Gold:	3
Silver:	4
Bronze:	5
Total:	12

Yamal-Nenets:

Gold:	10
Silver:	11
Bronze:	5
Total:	26

Yukon:

Gold:	7
Silver:	10
Bronze:	19
Total:	36

Weather Forecast



Cold with plenty of sunshine
24/-4



Photo By Courtney Procter

Rita Sipary, an Alaska Native elder, is happy to see cultural traditions being carried on by youth at the AWG.

Native elders enjoy celebration of traditional values at Games

By COURTNEY PROCTER
Ulu News

Many Native elders remember when the traditional skills contested at the Arctic Winter Games were a matter of work and survival. They know the tradition and history behind many of the Inuit and Dene events, such as the pole push or the knuckle hop.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe felt it was up to them to recognize the elders and the traditions during the Games.

To honor them, the Tyotkas Elders Center—a Kenaitze meeting place for memories and tradition—invited performers from around Alaska, as well as from visiting contingents to sing, dance, and drum for the Elders' Lunch held every weekday during the Games.

"The elders' wisdom is valuable," said Bonnie Juliussen, director of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Elders Program at Tyotkas. The elders' lunch is a regular service of Tyotkas, but this week the entertainment

celebrates Native culture and the Arctic Winter Games.

"We mostly serve Alaska Natives and Native Americans," said Juliussen. "However, anyone can go and have lunch and watch the performances," she said.

"This provides the elders with entertainment from different cultures," said Juliussen. "It is very close to their hearts. It also gives the youth an opportunity to perform for their elders, which is a very big honor," she added.

The Deldumi Youth Drummers performed traditional Kenaitze drumming on Tuesday. "We do some drumming for them, to entertain them and help them, because it's respectful to help your elders," said Lara Olsen, the group's drum leader. "They interact with us."

While the group was performing, several of the elders stood behind the drummers and joined in the songs. As the group closed in prayer, elders grasped the shoulders of the

circle of drummers, who in turn touched the drum.

"This is just a special thing," said Olsen, referring to the performances this week.

According to Rita Sipary, a local elder, the performances are especially important for the Games.

"We have performers off and on and we have even more this week," said Sipary. Among the performers will be the Mento Dancers from Nenana, as well as traditional throat singers and drummers.

Sarah Frances Lindgren, an elder at the lunch, says she enjoys seeing the traditional activities celebrated at the Games. She remembers when she, her brother and her grandfather used dogsleds to haul wood and gear.

"It is wonderful," Lindgren said of the many cultural events at the Games. Her friend, Lydia Pollard, originally of Kodiak, is overjoyed at the cultural competition and celebration.

"People used to be embarrassed to be Native," she said.

"My mother and grandmother used to speak Aleut—they would talk so soft because they were scared of being caught."

Pollard wishes she had been able to take part in traditional games when she was young. "It was taboo!" she said of the Native games and traditions.

Lindgren remembers when she was growing up; there was only one store and one restaurant she was allowed to go into.

"It feels good to not have to be afraid to go into a store," Lindgren added. She also remembers the pressure not to take part in her native culture.

"My grandmother was punished. She had to spend one night in jail because she was trying to teach us the Indian language," Lindgren said.

The Arctic Winter Games serve not only as a sporting endeavor, but as a cultural event so Native traditions can be passed on to new generations. According to Native elders, the Games are living up to their promise.



Photo By Allan Rudisill

Alaska's Emaleah Olsen (15) forces her way past Nunavut's Catherine Anayoak (1) and gets away from the crowd.



Photo By Allan Rudisill

Alaska's Karen Senette (11) drives past Nunavut's Melissa Aknavigak (5) for a layup.

Alaska girls jump over Nunavut in basketball

By CHARLES PULLIAM
Ulu News

The Alaska girls basketball team's aggressive play and offensive rebounding led them to a 90-44 win over Nunavut Wednesday at Cook Inlet Academy.

The win pushed the girl's record to 3-1 in this year's Arctic Winter Games, while Nunavut fell to 0-4. It's the second time Alaska has beaten Nunavut in the Games this year, with the previous meeting resulting in a 77-50 Team Alaska win.

The Alaska girls also gained experience and confidence after coming off their first defeat of the games in Tuesday night's 57-56 loss to undefeated Northwest Territories.

"Last night (Tuesday) was an awesome game for us...NWT (Northwest Territories) just out-

performed us, but it helped us out emotionally," Alaska girls coach Deb Lowney said. "This game (Wednesday) gave the kids that weren't really digging in or stepping up a chance to perform and it really built our bench up."

Lacey Wortham led Alaska with a game-high 18 points in Wednesday's win, while Emaleah Olsen scored 12 of her 16 points in the first half for Alaska.

"We really mixed up our lineup. There were several girls that needed to step up," Alaska's Piper Daugherty said.

Alaska shot just shy of 50-percent from the field netting 25-of-57 shots in the second half, while Nunavut was limited to 7-of-34 shooting.

"We tried our best and did all we could," Aknavigak added. She finished with 11 points. Tanis Peterson pitched in nine points for Nunavut.

Lindsay Layland added 13 points, Hannah Delaney scored 12, Karen Senette scored 11, and April Heffner had 10 for team Alaska.

Team Alaska woman ties Alaskan high kick record

By KELLIE MASSA
Ulu News

Just before the kick, a hush fell over the gymnasium at Kenai Central High School. With a pause and a rocketing leap, Team Alaska's Tanya Slim from Kipnuk tied the junior women's Alaskan high kick record of 5'10" and will take home a gold Ulu from Tuesday's Arctic Winter Games.

Alaskan high kick participants in the junior men and women events included, Alaska, Yukon, Greenland, Nunavik Quebec, Nunavut, Alberta North and Northwest Territories.

The junior men's first place winner was won by Nunavut's Bradley Lasutisluik who leaped 6'4".

Team Alaska's Simeon Aluska, a 13-year-old from

Toksook Bay who stands 5'4", made his 6' foot kick with ease and took 4th in the competition.

"Team Alaska junior men are doing good; some coming from the villages were a little nervous at first but are now beginning to relax," said Sam Strange, Team Alaska's junior men's coach. "They are 13- and 14-years-old competing against boys two and three years older than them," he said.

Competing in the Inuit games is a family affair for second time Games' competitor, Veronica McDonald, an 11-year-old from Northwest Territories. Her grandfather, Tim McDonald, is a Games veteran and her mother has been a competitor in the last 10 games. "I compete in all the events, its cool," Veronica said.

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Up to the Minute Results

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Curlers in Homer hurry the house as stones hit the button

By AKIN FRANCISCONE
Ulu News

From the sounds of the stones echoing through the rink, to the vocalizations of the throwing team encouraging teammates to sweep the stone into the house, the Homer Ice Rink has been the stage for extreme curling action since the Games began.

For those who have not been to a curling event, the trip

to Homer is worth it and free shuttle buses from Soldotna mean no excuses for not making the scenic drive.

"Everyone improves with each game in a round robin competition. Combined with the caliber of players we have in the games and the Brier ice, it's just a great thing," said Peter Geikie, coach of the Nunavut boy's team. "I would love to get a chance to curl on the Brier Ice," he said.

"Brier" ice is what the pros use, just like in the Olympics. With the medal round set to begin, the ice is ready and the teams are getting along great by showing good sportsmanship, which is a major part of curling, according to Geikie.

"The Nunavut boys have been getting along great with the Alaskans, and it seems like all the teams are becoming one big group with lots in common," Geikie said.

Nunavut is somewhat of the underdog, just assembling their teams in November. Their home ice in Iqaluit is small, but the players came prepared to win and are getting more and more competitive with every game.

"The whole point is to have fun and hopefully win a medal," said Alex Liptak of the Nunavut boy's team. "Since November we have improved greatly and it is more and more fun everyday," he said.

"The hospitality in Homer has been superb; I mean the food and friendliness of everyone has really been top-notch. Everyone has made the kids feel at home," said Geikie.

Lunches at the rink have been donated by local restaura-



Photo By Akin Franciscone

Nunavut and Alaska square off putting friendships on hold as the teams go head-to-head on Wednesday afternoon.

rants like Fat Olives, Two Sisters Bakery, Don Jose's, Café Cups and Subway.

"Since the curling athletes do not return to the athletes' village in Kenai until late, dinners have been provided by some of the local youth hockey team moms," said Ken Satre, president of Homer Hockey.

All teams enter the medal round, but the first and second place qualifiers are guaranteed a bronze Ulu. These teams get the luxury of sitting back and enjoying some great local food in the Curlers room as the other teams "hurry!" to decide who gets to play the top qualifiers for the medals.



Photo By Akin Franciscone

Nunavut players take aim on a medal, one stone at a time.

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2006 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

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Thursday, March 9, 2006

Thursday Sports Schedule

Alpine Skiing

Alyeska Resort, Girdwood

10 a.m. Female	Dual Giant Slalom - First Run
11 a.m. Male	Dual Giant Slalom - First Run
1 p.m. Female	Dual Giant Slalom - Second Run
2 p.m. Male	Dual Giant Slalom - Second Run
3 p.m.	Medal Presentations



Gymnastics

Kenai Middle School, Kenai
1 p.m. Individual Competition



Hockey

Soldotna Sports Center, Soldotna	
8 a.m. Women	Alaska vs. Nunavut
9:45 a.m. Women	NWT vs. Yukon
11:45 a.m. Midget	Yukon vs. NWT
1:15 p.m. Bantam	Alberta vs. Alaska
3:15 p.m. Bantam	NWT vs. Yukon
5 p.m. Midget	Alaska vs. Nunavut
Kenai Ice Rink, Kenai	
4:15 p.m. Women	Yukon vs. Nunavut
6 p.m. Women	NWT vs. Alberta



Badminton

Soldotna Middle School, Soldotna

Round 1

Alberta vs. Nunavut
Alaska vs. NWT
Greenland vs. Yukon

Round 2

Yukon vs. Nunavut
Greenland vs. Alaska
Alberta vs. NWT



Round 3

Alaska vs. Nunavut
Greenland vs. NWT
Alberta vs. Yukon
9 a.m. Mixed-Round 2
1 p.m. Mixed-Round 4

Round 4

Alberta vs. Alaska
Greenland vs. Nunavut
Yukon vs. NWT
9:45 a.m. Mixed-Round 3
1:45 p.m. Mixed-Round 5

Round 5

Alberta vs. Greenland
Alaska vs. Yukon
NWT vs. Nunavut
Mixed-Round 3
Mixed-Round 5

Basketball

Cook Inlet Academy, Soldotna

9 a.m. Male	NWT vs. Nunavut
11 a.m. Female	NWT vs. Nunavut
1 p.m. Male	Nunavut vs. Yukon
3 p.m. Female	Nunavut vs. Yukon
5 p.m. Male	Alaska vs. NWT
7 p.m. Female	Alaska vs. NWT



Biathlon

Skyview High School, Soldotna

1 p.m. Sprint Races 6km



Cross Country Skiing

Skyview High School, Soldotna

9 a.m. Freestyle Long Races 5km, 7.5 km and 10 km



Curling

Homer Ice Rink, Homer

10:30 a.m. All	Playdowns
3:30 p.m. All	Playdowns



Dene Games

Mt. View Elementary, Kenai

1 p.m. All	Hand Games Competitions
8:30 p.m.	Medal Presentations



Dog Mushing

Soldotna Air Field, Soldotna

10 a.m. Juvenile	7.5 km x 4 Dogs Team
12 p.m. Junior	10 km x 6 Dogs Team



Figure Skating

Soldotna Sports Center, Soldotna

7 p.m. All	Team Competition Elements
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Indoor Soccer

Soldotna High School, Soldotna

8 a.m. Juvenile Female	NWT vs. Yukon
9 a.m. Juvenile Male	Alaska vs. NWT
10 a.m. Int. Female	Alaska vs. Yukon
11 a.m. Juvenile Female	Alberta vs. Greenland
12 p.m. Juvenile Male	Yukon vs. Nunavut
1 p.m. Int. Female	NWT vs. Greenland
2 p.m. Junior Female	Yukon vs. Nunavut
3 p.m. Juvenile Female	Yukon vs. Nunavut
4 p.m. Juvenile Male	Greenland vs. Alaska
5 p.m. Junior Female	NWT vs. Alaska
6 p.m. Int. Female	Nunavut vs. Yukon
7 p.m. Junior Male	Alaska vs. NWT
8 p.m. Juvenile Female	Alaska vs. NWT
9 p.m. Juvenile Male	Alberta vs. Nunavut



Inuit Games

Kenai Central High School Auditorium

9 a.m. Junior	1 Foot High Kick
1 p.m. Open	1 Foot High Kick
6:30 p.m. Open Male	Knuckle Hop
7:30 p.m. Awards and Closing Ceremonies	



Snowboarding

Alyeska Resort, Girdwood

11:30 a.m. Half Pipe



Speedskating

Kenai Hockey Rink, Kenai

8 a.m. Juvenile	666 Meters
Junior	777 Meters
Junior/ Juvenile	Relay Heats



Volleyball

Skyview High School, Soldotna

12 p.m. Female	Semi-Finals - 2nd vs. 3rd
2:30 p.m. Female	Semi-Finals - 1st vs. 4th
5 p.m. Male	Semi-Finals - 2nd vs. 3rd
7:30 p.m. Male	Semi-Finals - 1st vs. 4th



Wrestling

Kenai Recreation Center, Kenai

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Individual Competitions

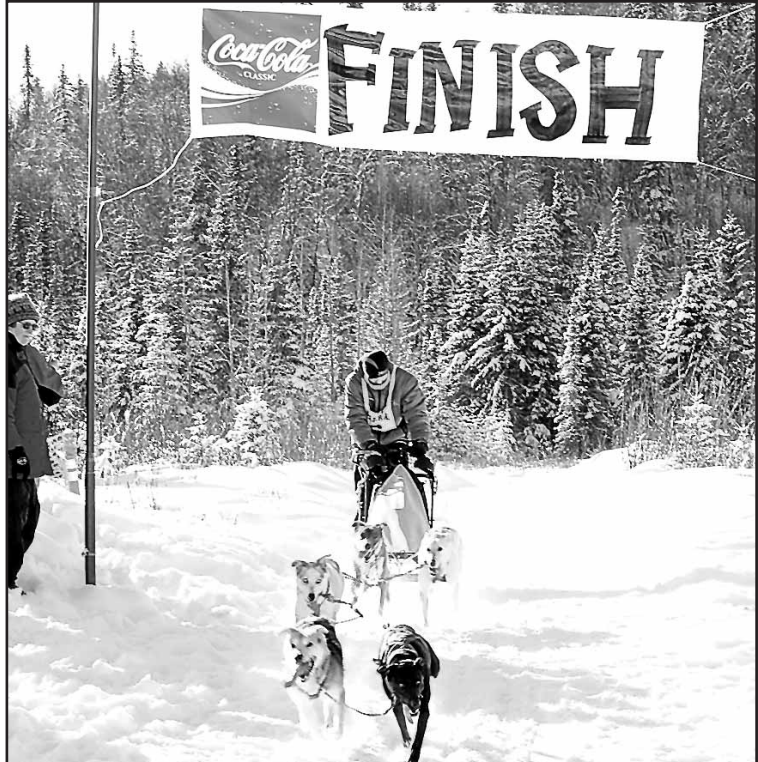


Photo By Allan Rudisill

Dylan Salvisberg crosses the finish line Wednesday running a donated team.

Sportsmanship reigns as Yukon musher races with borrowed team

By RHONDA LARSON
Ulu News

Yukon dog musher Dylan Salvisberg almost didn't get to run the races he had come so far to compete in.

Dylan flew in from Haines Junction, Yukon, while his family drove up with his team. Outside of Tok the family's truck collided with a moose and they were delayed while waiting for parts to make repairs to the vehicle.

The races were to begin Tuesday and his parents hadn't arrived. Fellow Yukon mushers Ben and Darrin Kinvig, and Alaskan Wendy Callis told Dylan, "You shouldn't come all this way and sit it [the sled dog races] out." Dylan said they "talked it over." The Kinvigs offered him

three dogs and Rex Jones loaned him two lead dogs, and a new high tech Danler mid-sprint sled from Austria. The young mushers approached the officials with their plan.

Race official Mitch Michaud said approval was given, "With one stipulation; he would have to keep the same dogs throughout the competition." This gave Dylan the chance, "to do the best I can and have a lot of fun doing it."

Their first race was the 7.5 kilometer. Despite running a makeshift team, Jones said Dylan "looked good on the airstrip." Fellow Yukon team member Ben Kinvig came in first and won the gold. Dylan came in last, but it didn't matter because he had gotten to race thanks to his new friends.

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Two Alaska Team men took home the gold and silver Ulu slalom course to take gold, silver

By RON MCGEE
Ulu News

Two Alaska Team men took home the gold and silver Ulu slalom course to take gold, silver

Alyeska Ski Club member Richard C. Kelly posted the fastest combined times, with times of 47.88 on his first run and 48.43 on his second run. This was the second Games for the 16-year-old, Anchorage skier. He was a member of Team Alaska that took home the silver medal in the 2004 Games in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Wrestlers demonstrate extraordinary sportsmanship

By KATHERINE WELLS
Ulu News

The wrestling tournament at the Kenai Recreation Center has been one of the most sportsmen-like competitions Dave Carey has ever seen.

"I have been a wrestling coach for 30 years, and this is the first time I have seen absolutely no act of bad sportsmanship," said Carey, wrestling sports chairperson.

The teams completed competitions Tuesday and each wrestler has wrestled everyone in his or her weight class at least once. Individual competitions began Wednesday.

"The wrestlers are friendly with each other, when just two days ago they were winning or losing to each other," said Carey.

Since only wrestlers and basketball players are being housed at Sears Elementary School, Fort Yukon team mem-

bers and other wrestlers are able to concentrate more on wrestling, said Yukon Coach Don Marrin.

"There is great sportsmanship between the teams. They are getting closer each day. With all of the wrestlers together there are less distractions," said Marrin.

The Yukon team is without much experience and came to the Games to improve. Most of the Yukon wrestlers have never been in this caliber competition, and are learning a great deal by watching others, said Marrin.

"They are seeing a lot of the moves being executed for the first time. There's not a lot of wrestling in the Yukon. The guys are getting better each time they wrestle," said Marrin.

"The sportsmanship is awesome. I like helping my team. I lost my voice from cheering so much," said Lynn Emiktowt of Team Nunavut.

Alberta skier Joshua Watson took home the bronze medal, with times of 50:18 and 52:12.

Alaska skiers definitely had a home-hill advantage, said Duffy Jensen, a start referee for the slalom event. Skiers competed in the midst of a winter snow storm.

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Wednesday Event Results

Alpine skiing

* Giant slalom, junior female

Gold: Kami C. Cabana, Alaska

Silver: Stephanie Dunn, Alaska

Bronze: Katrina Amy Schneider, Alberta North

* Junior male

Gold: Kevin F. Jensen, Alaska

Silver: Nathan D. Ord, Alaska

Bronze: Richard C. Kelly, Alaska

* Juvenile female

Gold: Tricia J. Richardson, Alaska

Silver: Petra D. Davis, Alaska

Bronze: Justine Elsie Pilger, Alberta North

* Juvenile male

Gold: Robert J. Lepine, Alaska

Silver: Brien Edward James Davis, Alberta North

Bronze: Derek Wilson, Yukon

Dene games

* Finger pull, open coed, junior female, juvenile female
NOT AVAILABLE

* Junior male, finger pull

Gold: Kohren H. Green, Alaska

Silver: Matthew Akikuluk, Nunavut

Bronze: Matthew Ross Meneen, Alberta North

Dog mushing

* Juvenile coed, 10K-5 dogs

Gold: Rebecca Jean Baxter, Northwest Territories

Silver: Gracie K. Callis, Alaska

Bronze: Benjamin L. Kinvig, Yukon

* Junior coed, 13K-7 dogs

Gold: Alyn B. Charlie, Northwest Territories

Silver: Beth H. Callis, Alaska

Bronze: Sophia Daniels, Yukon

Gymnastics

NOT AVAILABLE

Snowboarding

* Giant slalom, junior female

Gold: Ashley Margaret Egan, Alberta North

Silver: Carly W. Chase, Alaska

Bronze: Rachele Marie Rebus, Alberta North

* Junior male

Gold: Cody Alan Zachariah Burchell, Alberta North

Silver: Tuumarsi Olsen, Greenland

Bronze: Andrew Matthews, Northwest Territories

* Juvenile female

Gold: Brooke Nicole Voigt, Alberta North

Silver: Lacy L. Merrill, Alaska

Bronze: Wheaton Symington, Yukon

* Juvenile male

Gold: Pierce Kiyoshi Mimura, Alberta North

Silver: Mikkel Kelller Olsen, Greenland

Bronze: Matthew Scott Munn, Alberta North

Snowshoe biathlon

* 3K sprint, junior female

Gold: Kate Bolivar, Northwest Territories

Silver: Kimberly K. Green, Alaska

Bronze: Mackenzie R. Wonders, Alaska

* Junior male

Gold: Noel-Leigh Cockney, Northwest Territories

Silver: Jerad L. McClure, Alaska

Bronze: Erik N. Jacobsen, Yukon



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Over the last decade, Soldotna has increasingly become a hub of business and visitor activity. Several malls and clusters of stores, banks, restaurants and offices form the commercial district. Vacant land and undeveloped property are available for business expansion and new ventures within the area.

The people of the City of Soldotna are brought together many times throughout the year by participating in many of our community events.

For more information on how to enjoy life in Soldotna contact the Soldotna Visitor Information Center at 262-1337 or www.soldotnachamber.com

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Figure skaters jump their way to Gold Ulu

By COURTNEY PROCTER
Ulu News

Arctic Winter Games figure skating kicked off Tuesday with opening ceremonies at the Soldotna Sports Center. Once the competition had ended, Team Alaska had skated to two gold Ulu while Yamal and Northwest Territories skaters each pocketed a gold.

Five contingents were represented by the 32 athletes who competed in the figure skating events of the Games.

Celina Farmer of Alaska took the Ladies Level One gold, with Northwest Territories team members taking silver and bronze.

Ladies Level Two was dominated by Yamal skaters including spectacular performances from Viktoria Lobanova and Tatyana Borisova, who won gold and silver, respectively. Kayla Hallonquist of Team Yukon took bronze.

In Ladies Level Three, it was clear a clean program was the key to medaling, as Ellie Gottstein of Team Alaska skated to gold with a graceful and powerful short program.

Northwest Territories skater Tara Kaip captured Ladies Level Four gold with a dramatic performance and solid jumps. The gold is Kaip's first medal at the Games, although she competed in the 2004 Games at Wood Buffalo.

"It feels amazing to get gold here," Kaip said.

Her teammate, Sarah Elke, who took bronze in Ladies Level Three, also com-



Photo By Allan Rudisill

Tatiana Borisova of Team Yamal shows her flexibility during her short program on Tuesday afternoon.

peted in the 2004 Games. This is her first medal at the Games.

"It feels so good to medal at the Arctic Winter Games," she said.

Both Kaip and Elke have

been skating for eight years in their hometown of Yellowknife, and are looking forward to the 2008 Games being held there, although Kaip will be too old to compete.



Photo By Charlotte Nicolet

Northern Alberta's Alicia V.R. King performs a wonderful routine on the beam.

Team Alberta tumbles to Gold Ulu in women's gymnastics

By CHARLOTTE NICOLET
Ulu News

Northern Alberta won the Gold Ulu in the Women's Artistic Gymnastics Team Competition on Tuesday at Kenai Middle School.

Alaska, Alberta, Northwest Territories, and Yukon competed for the medal on vault, bars, beam and floor exercises.

On the uneven bars, Team Alberta was meticulous in their long extensions. With pointed toes and straight knees they did free hip circles to hand-stands, then ended with strong giants, and layout fly-a-ways for their dismounts.

"On the floor, the girls were powerhouses as they tumbled from corner to corner with switch-split leaps and strong choreography," said spectator, Tami Oines Koerber,

"You go girl," was shouted from the audience at every team's start up. And when

International Committee vice president Wendell Shiffler and Games general manager Tim Dillon presented the Ulu medals, the crowd roared. As the hullabaloo quieted, the audience stood for Alberta's national anthem.

"The girls did very well, I'm really proud of how they did. They enjoyed it, had fun, and met gymnasts from other places," said Coach Jonathon Mason, Northwest Territory. "It's my first games and I'm very impressed on how it was organized, marvelous sports and people that you meet; great event for the children," said Mason.

Mason's comments were shared by many, including sports chair Melissa Daugherty. "The games went really well today," she said. "Our volunteers pulled through; the gymnasts were wonderful; it really came together, I felt it at the end" she said.

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Dene ancient traditions embodied in Games participants

By DAWN FITZPATRICK
ULU News

The Dene Games, part of the Arctic Winter Games, was born from ancient tradition with each of the competitions based on activities once integral to Native village life. The Games are keeping these traditions alive with five sports being contested on the Kenai Peninsula.

Participating teams in the Dene Games include: Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alberta, Alaska and Nunavut. The Stick Pull, Snow Snake, Finger Pull, Stick Game, and Pole Push are the individual events and participants compete in each one. There are four divisions: open male, junior male, junior female and juvenile female.

The origin of the Stick Pull began as a competition of "grabbing fish out of the nets," according to Michael McLeod, NWT Minister of Sport. Today's version uses a stick tapered on both ends with Crisco shortening thoroughly rubbed on it. The rules require the arms to remain straight with elbows locked and the competitor must maintain a straight posture with no knee bending. The object is to pull the stick out of the other person's grip. There are two separate pulls, one for each hand, and the stick must stay level with no jerking allowing during the pull.

McLeod is here cheering on his two daughters who are competing. Shawna, 14-years-old, was the Silver Ulu winner in the Snow Snake and Devin, 15-years-old, won the Gold Ulu in the Stick Pull.



Photo By Dawn Fitzpatrick

Jonah Caesar, Team Yukon, grimaces during the Open Male Stick Pull.

Although she has many years of competing in the Inuit games, this is the first Dene games for Brianna Goins, a 14-year-old with Team Alaska, who is from Ninilchik, a small village 40 miles south of Soldotna. She was picked at the Peninsula Winter Games in January to join Team Alaska and has driven four hours each of the last five Wednesdays to be coached in Anchorage.

"My favorite Dene event is the Snowsnake," said Brianna. She feels "with practice she could get good at it."

"She was nominated to carry the flag in the opening ceremonies for her leadership skills and ability to work with the coaches," said her coach, Amanda Attila.

Kyle Benjamin, Team

Yukon, is 15-years-old and is "participating for his 2nd time," according to his mother, Kim Blake. "He's having a good time and not missing me at all."

The family is from Old Crow, Yukon, an area only accessible by air. Benjamin's first time entering the Dene Games was in Wood Buffalo/Fort McMurray, Alberta, two years ago.

"I'm having lots of fun," was the reaction of Margaret Tukkiapik, a 15-year-old participant from Nunavut. She has been in several other competitions in Nunavut.

In part due to the Games, Dene ancient traditions are alive and well, and being embodied and embraced by our youth. Native elders should be proud.

Team Yukon overcomes challenges, hones their Badminton skills at AWG

By KATHERINE WELLS
Ulu News

A fledgling badminton team from the Yukon has come to the Arctic Winter Games to gain a little more of something they lack. Team Yukon's inexperience may not be evident when they're on the court, but truth be told, most members have been playing only since last spring.

The Games are a great experience and character builder for the kids, according to Coach Randy Carlson.

"The team has come here hoping to gain a sense of the Games and mostly to train for the 2008 Games in Yellowknife," he said. Team Yukon is learning to rise above technical difficulties as well. The gym at Soldotna Middle School has lower ceilings than the team is accustomed to.

"Adjusting to food, facilities, and climate is all part of being a competitor. I tell the kids to pick out what works for them," said the coach.

Getting the team together to practice has been an added



Photo By Lee Johnson


Team Yukon badminton athletes in action

challenge. Four team members live in Whitehorse, which is four hours away from Watson Lake, where Coach Carlson and the other players live. So the Whitehorse athletes had to practice on their own, playing against adult players at the local gym, said Janice Carlson.

"Badminton has a 'backyard' stigma. Yet it is a competitive and physical sport that requires mental skills, which is why we like it," said Coach Carlson.

Though the players had only four weekends to practice together as a full team before coming to the Games, the Carlsons agree that getting here has been worth the effort.

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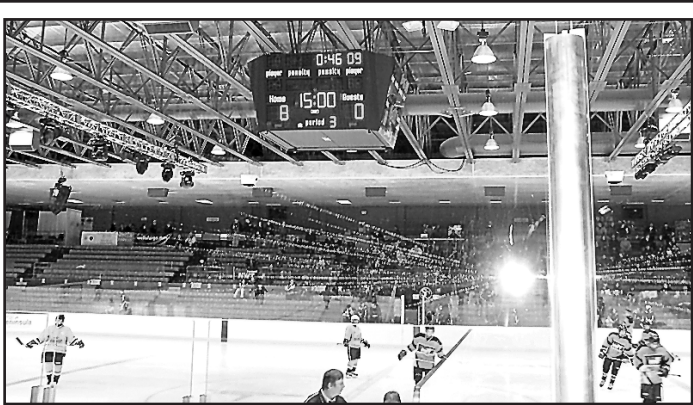


Photo By Star McGlasson

With the game board score showing 8-0, Nunavut's head coach Donovan gave the go-ahead to continue play into the third period. "We're here to play," he said.

Nunavut iced by NWT, but takes loss in stride

By STAR MCGLASSON
Ulu News

The Nunavut midget hockey team may have lost to Team Northwest Territories in midget men's hockey, but they certainly aren't showing it.

"I'm not disappointed in the team, we all tried hard," said Nick Dunphy, assistant team captain for the Nunavut team after a 9-0 loss Tuesday night.

"We just couldn't get one in," said Dunphy. "We were getting focused at the start of the third period, but it was too late," he said.

Nunavut's head coach, John Donovan, had an opportunity unique to the Games. At the end of the second period, NWT was winning 8-0. According to the Games' rules, at the end of the second period or any time during the third period, the game may be stopped at the discretion of the head coach of the

losing team if the goal spread is seven or more. At second period's end, Donovan chose to continue.

"This was the first game they had played together," but we're here to play, said Donovan. "We had four breakaways; we just didn't score," he added.

Meanwhile, NWT was celebrating their first Games victory.

"I can't wait to tell my mom," said Elton Ruben, a forward for the NWT who scored three of the nine goals against Nunavut. Ruben scored the first goal of the game and another in the first period. He completed his hat trick during the third period.

Ruben said this was his first experience at the Games. "I'm proud of myself and of how the team played," he said.

NWT team member, Joey Hiebert, also had a hat trick and one assist.

Alaska volleyball team unable to dig out from Alberta North



Photo By Ramon Carreon

Team Alberta volleyball players strategize along the sidelines before their match.

By RAMON CARREON
Ulu News

Competition and friendship were part of the volleyball matches on Tuesday when the Alberta North Team boys spiked the Alaska Team in four sets.

"Everybody is extremely friendly and very welcoming. We can't ask for more," Alberta's coach Trent Mason said.

When asked if he could share some of his secrets and tips on how to get athletes of Alberta's caliber he responded: "We are just very lucky to have lots of very good volleyball players in Northern Alberta."

One of Alberta's players, James Senetza said that being part of the team was good and exciting. He said the team was having a great time and showing other teams, "how we play volleyball in Northern Alberta."

'Want some fries with that?' Food servers unsung heroes of Games

By BRIAN KEITH
Ulu News

Saturday marked the arrival of thousands of guests and participants for this year's Arctic Winter Games, but what a lot of people didn't consider was how hungry they all were.

Food service volunteers certainly noticed, as busloads of volunteers emptied into the Soldotna High School lunchroom for a well deserved meal, filled with a hunger brought on by long airplane rides. The dinner line started at 4 p.m., and was soon out the door. By 6 p.m., instead of getting shorter, the line had actually gotten longer, and the pace of the eating quickened.

"It was really slow at 1 o'clock. We were having a hard time finding stuff to do until dinner started at 4 p.m., and then it got really crazy," said Telotha Rhinehart, a food services volunteer and Kenai Peninsula College student.

"I heard that we served something like 1,000 meals more than what was expected," said Charlene Smith,

another food server. "At first we had all this really good food. We had lasagna, and some lemon salmon, and chicken, all kinds of good fresh fruit."

The sheer volume of the participants combined with their understandably large appetites quickly diminished the reserves of the school kitchen, causing them to resort to serving school cafeteria food. Lasagna begot chicken nuggets, lemon salmon begot burritos, and fresh fruit was nowhere to be seen.

Although the quality of the food servers is without question, the food itself leaves some athletes wanting.

"In the morning, its kind of greasy," said Carlo Issaluk, a Nunavut hockey player. "There's a little fruit, like apples and bananas, and then for dinner we have things like hamburgers and French fries."

"It's okay; it's like basic lunchroom food like in a high school. It's not bad, but it's not good to eat it all the time," added Joey Aqquiaruq, Issaluk's friend and hockey teammate.

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Green Star will provide portable recycle containers and coordinate recycling duties assisted by ReGroup who will be coordinating volunteers. The Solid Waste Department will provide recycle roll-off containers and will manage recyclables at Borough landfills. Cardboard containers and all recycle hauling services will be donated by Alaska Waste.

Be on the lookout for collection containers at different venues for the following materials:

- Cardboard
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- Aluminum Cans
- PET #1 Plastic drink containers (remove lids)

If you have any questions, need information, or would like to help with recycling activities during the games, contact Marie at 262-2005 or e-mail mvinson@borough.kenai.ak.us.



Team Yamal from Russia perform at the AWG 2006 cultural performances throughout the week.

Photo By Brett Encelowski

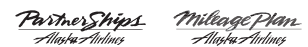
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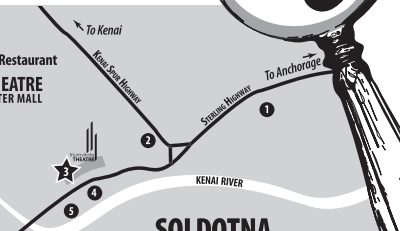
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SPAN-ALASKA CONSOLIDATORS

SPENARD BUILDERS SUPPLY

STATE FARM INSURANCE

THE DECANTER INN

THE JOTIMAZ GROUP

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

UDELHOVEN OILFIELD SYSTEM SERVICES

UNITED RENTALS

UNOCAL ALASKA

WILDER CONSTRUCTION

WILL JAHRIG

XTO ENERGY, INC

