

ULU NEWS



A special publication of Fort McMurray Today

March 4, 2004



AIR UP THERE — Ben Martin of Team Alaska takes off to get big air during his first run of the snowboarding slopestyle event at Vista Ridge Wednesday afternoon. Despite his effort and skill, Martin was only able to place ninth in the event after three runs.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

Alberta womens' b-ball crushing all competition

...4

Games' head honcho calling it quits this year

...6

Head pull champ promised gold to daughter

...18

Day 4 medalists

...17

Overall standings

...19

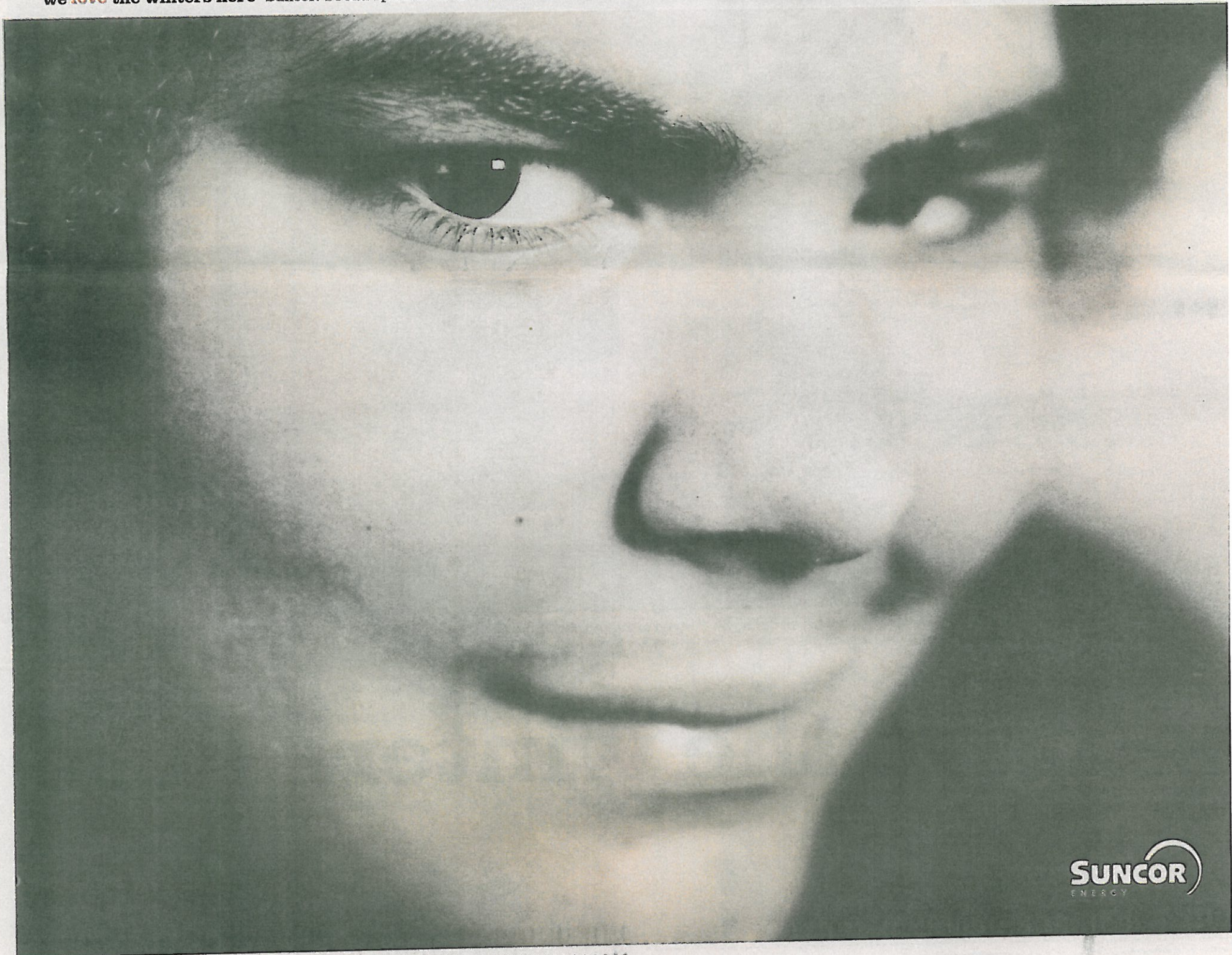
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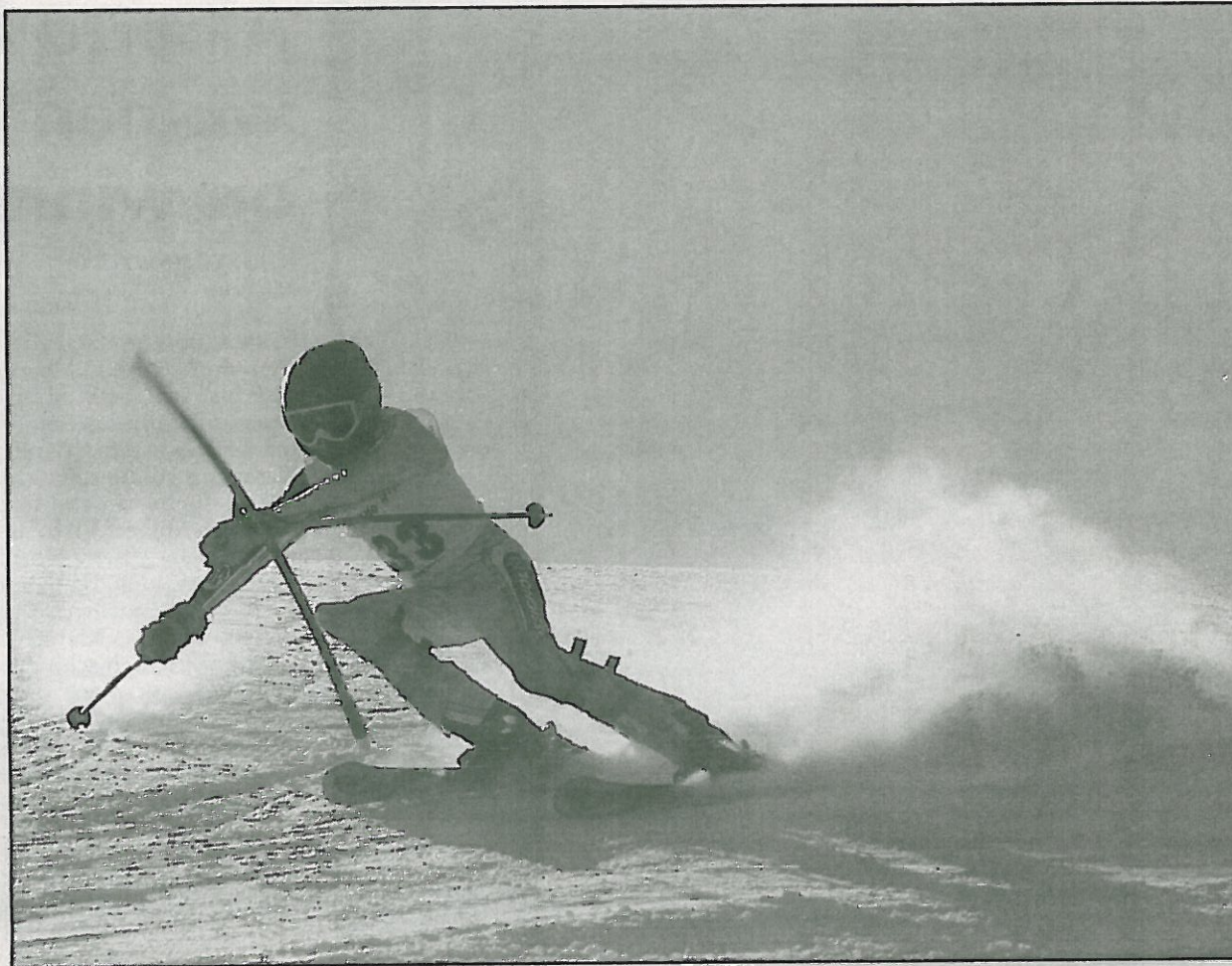


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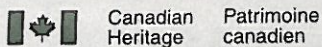
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THROUGH THE GATES — Danil Borodinevski of Team Yamal races over the top of the hill at the start of his first run of the Alpine skiing slalom event at Vista Ridge Wednesday morning.
 Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News



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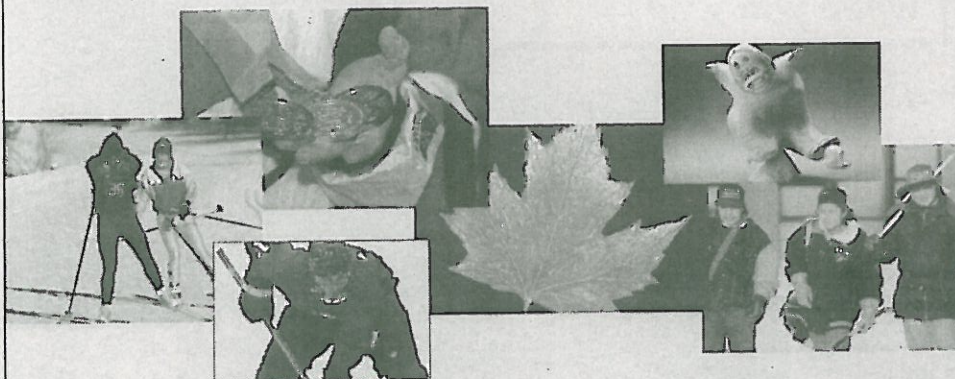
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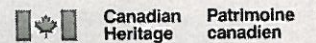


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FOLLOW ME — Melissa Schmidt of Team Alberta North, centre, heads down court as teammate Stephanie Edison points out the play during the Wednesday afternoon game against Team Nunavut. Teamwork helped Team Alberta North win the game by a score of 70 - 20.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE,
Ulu News

Alberta b-ball women continue on winning roll

By JEFF KORENKO
Ulu News

Despite the fact they took on Nunavut, Alberta North's women's hoops squad had the afternoon off at the Arctic Winter Games on Wednesday.

Continuing a trend that has seen them yet to be truly tested, Alberta North walked through Nunavut 70-20 on the hardwood at Father Patrick Mercredi Community high school.

What took place over the 40 minutes resembled nothing more than a glorified practice for the talented Alberta North side, as Sexsmith's Melissa and Jaelle Duinker combined with Grande Prairie's Mandy Van Dresar and Melissa Schmidt for 45

points.

The win improved Alberta North's record to 3-0, and they have now outscored their opponents by an average of 34 points.

Coming into the game, Alberta North had beaten the Northwest Territories 77-46 and Alaska 83-61.

Guard Melissa Duinker, who led all scorers Wednesday with 14 points, admitted afterward the contest against a young team still trying to learn the nuances of the game provided an opportunity for her side to work on some things as they move into their final round-robin game against the Yukon Thursday and the gold ulu game Friday.

Please see
'Nunavut'/Page 5

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Nunavut a hard-working team

Cont'd from Page 4.

"Nunavut's a young team that is still developing, but they work hard," said Duinker.

"It was a good opportunity for us to set up plays and run through a few things that have been difficult for us throughout the week.

"Our team did a fairly good job of making sure we looked for good shots, worked hard and played good fundamental basketball, not showy," said the 17-year-old.

Alberta North definitely knew they could take their collective foot off the accelerator Wednesday and it showed at times, as they hit on just 27 of 90 shots (30 per cent) from the field and 15 of 30 from the foul line.

Nunavut, meanwhile, managed two baskets in the first quarter, three in the second, one in the third and four in the fourth.

They made only 10 of 57 shots (17.5 per cent) from the floor and missed their only two free throws.

While Melissa Duinker's 14 points earned her Alberta North's game MVP honours, Van Dresar followed with 13, Jaelle Duinker threw down 10 and Schmidt contributed eight.

Chosen as Nunavut's MVP was Tanis Peterson, who struck for 10 points and electrified the crowd with a couple of rainbow three-pointers in the second quarter.

With Alberta starting the game in full-court mode, Nunavut turned the ball over on five consecutive possessions without advancing past the centre stripe.

The northern Albertans built a 13-0 lead in that opening five minutes, before making wholesale changes off the bench.

In the third quarter, a combination of Nunavut's hustle and Alberta North's desire to keep the score respectable led to the hosts managing just four points in the first eight minutes.

"I was happy with our defence and I thought we

were more aggressive offensively, less nervous and scared to shoot the ball and calmer under pressure than we have been," said Nunavut coach Qajaq Robinson.

The Nunavut girls' squad was thrown together only two weeks ago and the oldest player on their roster is 16.

"This to us is a big training camp, to gain game experience and work together," said Robinson.

"The hope is that we'll learn from this and come back and be better two years from now, so this is really working on the foundation of Nunavut junior girls basketball."

Grande Prairie's Michelle Schamehorn, who dropped in four points in the game, thought her team demonstrated what the Games are supposed to be about in the way they approached the game.

"We did a really good job of being classy but still playing our game," the 15-year-old said.

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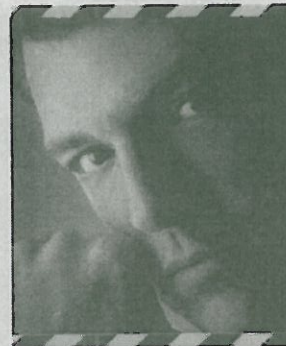
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What's next for O'Hara after Arctic Winter Games?

By **JEFF KORENKO**
Ulu News

With an initial glance, Tom O'Hara doesn't look like a small-town kind of guy.

You see him dressed to the nines with his flashy ties, his hair coifed, eyes gleaming through fashionable rectangular specs and he takes on the persona of someone you expect to see coming down the steps of a Law Courts Building or exiting an elevator in a corporate high-rise in a major-centre city, not organizing sporting events in remote northern communities.

Perhaps that's part of the reason he will be remembered as the general manager of an Arctic Winter Games taking place in the Municipality of Wood Buffalo this week, the biggest thus far.

After managing what has since been regarded as the best-organized AWGs

despite budget and logistical restrictions four years ago in Whitehorse, O'Hara's think-big mindset was a natural fit for a place holding the Games that continues to grow by the day.

Where the Arctic Winter Games are concerned, bigger doesn't always mean better, but O'Hara had a sense this community was capable of doing things that had never been accomplished before.

And now they have. So, what is next for the 46-year-old once the 18th edition of the Arctic Winter Games come to a close in two days' time?

The Ulu News sat down with O'Hara to find out the answer to that question and some others, with a Q&A session Tuesday.

Ulu News: Has what has transpired so far at these games met the high expectations you've had?

Tom O'Hara: "It has exceeded my expectations. The 8,000 people at the opening ceremonies was precedent-setting and far beyond what many people were expecting.

"I don't know if the public really realized the magnitude of the tent. When they heard of this large tent and the ominous size of it, I don't think they really realized there was going to be 8,000 people there.

"The tent was due to the facilities we didn't have. Thickwood Heights Arena seating 1,550 tied our hands in terms of what we could do for a venue.

"If we did use that venue, we would have had literally 350 seats available for each of the opening and closing ceremonies. Therefore, only 700 of the 5,000 volunteers would have got in. We knew we had to generate a venue that was appropriate to ensure we respected the

fact our volunteers needed to get into the ceremony."

UN: What has this edition of the games been about to you personally?

T.O.: "The Games are about the kids and the Games are about Wood Buffalo putting its best foot forward and the Games are about Fort McMurray showing the rest of Alberta and Canada and really, the circumpolar world, this is a great place to live and stay and I think we have accomplished many things by hosting the Games.

"We certainly set the bar at a fairly high level for the next Games to come and try to achieve: Five thousand volunteers, 8,000 people at the opening ceremonies; both of those are Canada Games-type levels and we're certainly proud of that."

UN: When what you have worked so hard at for

so long comes to a close, what will be next for you?

T.O.: "My wife (Angie) and I are going to stay here. I think I'm going to be a kept man this summer and play some golf. We have about three months to wrap the books up, pay the bills and write a fairly lengthy final report on recommendations for 2006.

"Then we'll start looking and mapping out the future, but that will happen here. We really enjoy it here. It is a great community and where else would you want to be in North America?"

"We have industry, great facilities, great people and are four hours from a large centre.

"We have really enjoyed it in Fort McMurray."

UN: That said, do you see yourself doing this sort of thing again, should the opportunity arise in this area?

T.O.: This could be the

end of (Games organizing) for me, having been number 26. I think it's time to do something different.

"Maybe down the road if we as a community decide to bid on the 2015 Canada Games, that might be something I could get involved in as a volunteer.

"With my wife being as successful as she has been in real estate, it wouldn't be fair for me to ask her to move on to do something else. Fort McMurray is a good fit for us and offers a great business opportunity for us, as well.

"I'm not sure what I might do otherwise, right away. I think we'll look at potential business and marketing opportunities. We have had a couple of offers so far and one is very serious.

"I'm not sure if I could be a kept man (chuckles). I guess I would like to see what it's like to sleep in until 7 a.m. as opposed to 5:30 every morning."

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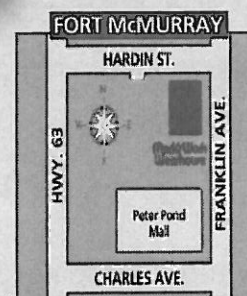
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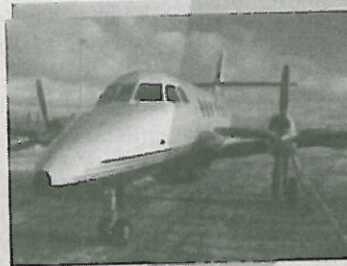
HATS OFF TO THE CHEF — Alice Haxton, long-time resident of Fort McMurray, gives the cuisine a thumbs-up as she enjoys a snack at of bannock and tea at the Bannock Café at Kaskwasowin on the upper level of C.A. Knight Recreation Centre on MacDonald Island on Wednesday afternoon.
Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

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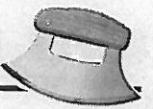
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Alaska puts hold on Alberta's wrestling hopes

By MAX MAUDIE
Ulu News

After three punishing rounds stretched over a day-and-a-half, team Northern Alberta's mixed wrestling team found itself within striking distance of tournament-leading Team Alaska.

The defending dual meet champions Wednesday were down only 18 points to the powerful Alaskans. The dual meet pits the six boys and six girls of each wrestling team against the other teams' boys and girls.

But even though Team Alberta was all try and no quit, they came up short. Alaska pinned the Albertan's hopes, 35-14.

"Alaska was pretty tough and technically strong," said Alberta coach Derek Berg.

Not making excuses, he said his team was still a little sore from meets before the games.

"They've been beat up already," agreed Alaska coach Ronald Baxter. "All my kids were fresh."

One of the highlights of the

day came at the expense of Albertan Glengarry MacDonald. Kaylen Baxter had hoisted MacDonald up over his shoulder. Baxter spun, seemingly deciding what to do.

"Forward, forward," cautioned the referee, reminding Baxter to throw MacDonald forward, not fall back on him.

An instant later, MacDonald was down — but not out.

While the wrestling mat is soft, it's not whipped cream. It had to hurt a whole lot.

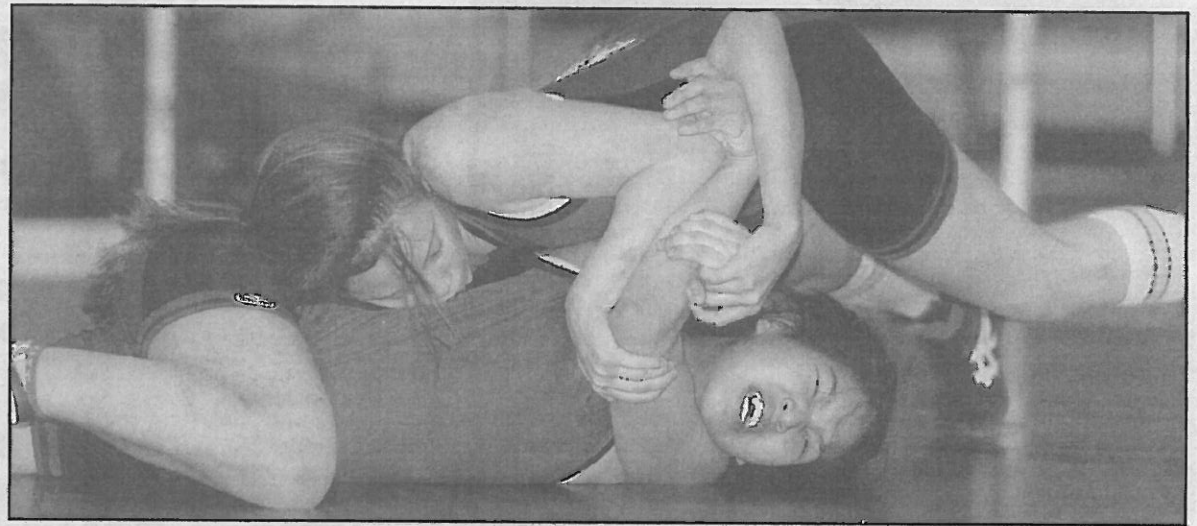
MacDonald was on his knees at the next break with something coming from his mouth. He was clearly in pain.

"It's over, it's over," said Berg as he rushed onto the mat.

Berg later explained MacDonald, one of his better wrestlers, was flu stricken.

"(There was) no quitting at all. None of these kids would quit on the mat," said Berg. "There's nothing wrong with silver when you're losing to Alaska."

Alberta's Cody Harvel, 17, won his match against Alaska's Brady Schultz, 15.



STUCK ON THE BOTTOM — Glenna Inlangasuk of Team N.W.T. struggles to escape from Coralynn Shepherd of Team Alberta North during the opening wrestling match of the 2004 Arctic Winter Games Tuesday morning at Centre Communautaire Scolaire Boreal. Despite Inlangasuk's effort, Shepherd won the match.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

Harvel said he made some mistakes in previous matches, one of which led to a defeat at the hands of a Nunavut wrestler. Harvel had tried new moves and moves he was not strong at. He said he was humbled by his loss to Nunavut.

"(Today) I had the mindset ... Alaska is an excellent team. I wanted to finish it nice and quickly," said Harvel after the match.

Harvel said even though his team lost, he was very proud of them.

"We're all very sore and tired. I'm proud of them, they stuck it out and did their best," said Harvel.

The tournament's roster was rounded out by teams from the Northwest Territories, Magadan and bronze medalist Nunavut.

The Management and staff of Tuccaro Inc. would like to extend our congratulations to the organizers, athletes and all coaching staff involved in the 2004 Arctic Winter Games.

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THE WAY HOME — Giving their living quarters a home touch, someone built a couple of Inukshuk statues out of snow at St. Gabriel school. The school is the athlete's village for several different dog mushing teams.

Photo by CARL PATZEL, Today staff

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Sami storm skiing trails

By RICHARD WRIGHT
Ulu News

Could cross-country skiing become the next Arctic Winter Games sport to feature special age limits now that the Sami people of northern Norway, Sweden, Russia and Finland have arrived to school the rest of the circumpolar world?

A great portion of the 41 athletes they brought to the Games are taking part in cross-country skiing, which isn't surprising since the sport to them is what hockey is to Canada.

"It is one of the best sports to us, next to football (soccer)," said coach Jan Reinaas.

It was only fitting then that Wednesday's freestyle event was held on one of the largest soccer fields in the city. One after one, the leading competitors emerging from the Birchwood Trails this week

to race across the field to the finish line have been Samis.

"They are great," said Alaska head coach Tom Grenier, whose team had an impressive medal haul of their own yesterday. "Boy, they are worth watching. Monday we were in awe watching how well those guys ski."

The Alaskans, who are most comfortable in freestyle events, finished third in the medals Wednesday. Team Alberta North, on the other hand, has had a heck of a time keeping up with the rest of the field.

On Monday in the Classic skiing events, the top Albertan was McMurrayite and juvenile girl's competitor Ketura Meyer, who finished eighth.

Alberta North coach Charles Schrama didn't expect anything much dif-

ferent than what has so far been achieved by his athletes. The competition has been so tough he's happy

just to have his kids be out there watching and learning.

"The kids are realizing some of the things they have to do to get better. Just in talking with (Sami athletes and coaches) you can pick up what to do for training, and that is a good thing for us."

The Samis' commitment to cross-country skiing becomes even more clear when taken into account is that the athletes here are

basically just learning what it takes to succeed themselves.

"They were at the Norwegian championships last week and I don't think any did better than 13th," said Reinaas. "The national team is very good and we try to get there, that's the aim. But only a very few get there."

Races postponed

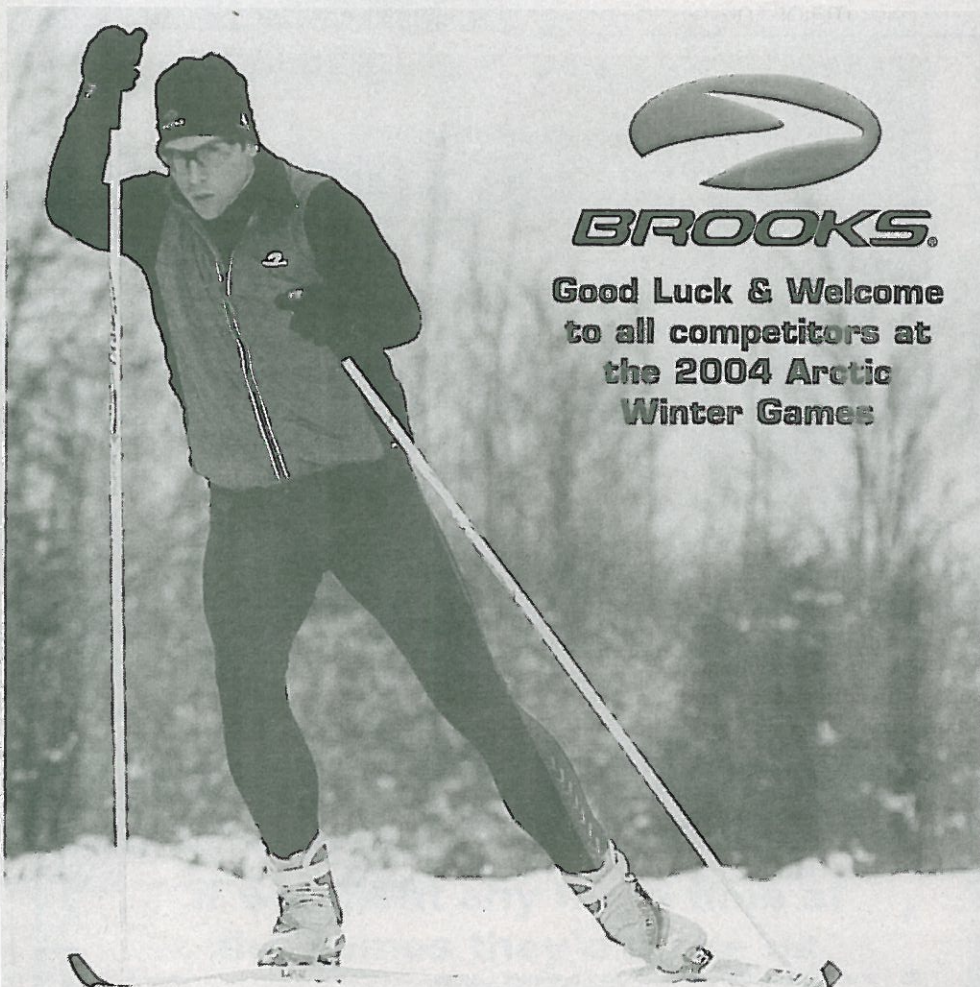
because of Tuesday's cold snap have been rescheduled for Friday. In all there are six races set for tomorrow at the Birchwood Trails.

“Boy, are they worth watching. Monday we were in awe watching those guys ski.”



CHECKING IT OUT — Team Greenland ski coach Arne Hardenberg, left, and Team Alaska ski coach Tom Jantunen check out the results board after the first run of the alpine skiing slalom event at Vista Ridge Wednesday morning.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News



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CALLING ALL KIDS — Hope Moffatt performs and interacts with children during storytelling and singalong time at Kaskwasowin on the upper level of C.A. Knight Recreation Centre on MacDonal Island on Wednesday afternoon. Families are invited to join Hope or participate in any of the other kids' activities going on between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

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FLYING HIGH — Owen Holmes of Team Yukon flies off the first set of jumps during his second of three runs of the snowboarding slopestyle event at Vista Ridge on Wednesday afternoon. Holmes' high-flying antics and talents helped him place seventh in the event. Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

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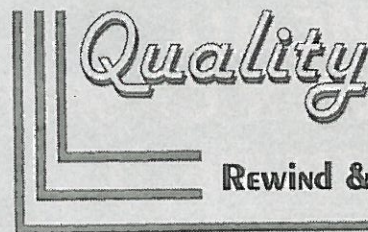
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Alberta rink faces stiff Alaskan competition

By JEFF KORENKO
Ulu News

Geoff Walker's Beaverlodge rink finally found themselves some competition in the Arctic Winter Games boys' curling tournament Wednesday.

After sleeping through successive victories over the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon, the Alberta North quartet came up against Alaska's Chad Persinger in Draw 4 at the C.A. Knight Recreation Centre and shook off some early cobwebs to record a 6-4 victory and move to 3-0.

Prior to meeting Persinger, Walker and his collection of South Peace teammates had won their trio of games by a combined 23 points.

The scoring did not come nearly as easy against the Alaskans, however, as Persinger built a 4-2 lead through six ends, before some shoddy front-end shooting did him in and allowed Walker to wrap up first place.

Alaska was undefeated at 2-0 coming into Draw 4-action.

Trailing by two with the hammer in the sixth, the defending Games champion — whose team also consists of Sexsmith lead Brett Vavrek, La Glace second Graham Powell and Grande Prairie third Kyle Reynolds — jumped all over a couple of misses by Alaska lead Peter Kramer to count three and gain momentum.

A pair of Alberta rocks in the rings left Walker with a nose hit for three, which he executed coolly for a 5-4 advantage.

"Alaska's a good team and they came out strong and we knew it would be tough," said Walker, 18.

"We know if we stay focused and make our shots, we can win any game we are in here. That was key. We had a rough start, but we hung in there and picked it up at the end and really came on."

Walker found himself behind the eight-ball early, as Persinger had an easy hit for a deuce with the hammer in the opening end.

After blanking the second, he had an opportunity to knot the score at two in the third, but set-

led for just one, when his takeout of Alaska's shot stone kicked out his own second shot rock at the back of the 12-foot.

Walker then stole one in the fourth to draw even, before Persinger struck for another pair in the fifth.

With a bevy of rocks crowding the front of the house, the skip from Fairbanks came deftly through a port on the left side for a direct hit on Alberta's second shot stone and a 4-2 score.

Walker hit and rolled for a blank sixth end, then pounced with the hammer in the seventh.

Thanks to Kramer being heavy with his first toss and light with his second, Northern Alberta found themselves with three of their rocks frozen in the four foot by third stones.

"I didn't make much of my shots as lead, but we put up a good fight until toward the end," said a dejected Kramer afterward.

"Both teams made some mistakes, but they made the better shots when it counted."

In the eighth, Persinger needed a raise of a middle guard to

eliminate Alberta's shot stone. He didn't miss by much, but a measurement gave Northern Alberta a steal of one to round out the scoring, as Alaska blanked end nine and was run out of rocks in the 10th.

"We came in undefeated and we just need a win (Wednesday night) for second spot," said Persinger with a shrug.

He was to the point when asked what he felt made the difference in his loss to Walker.

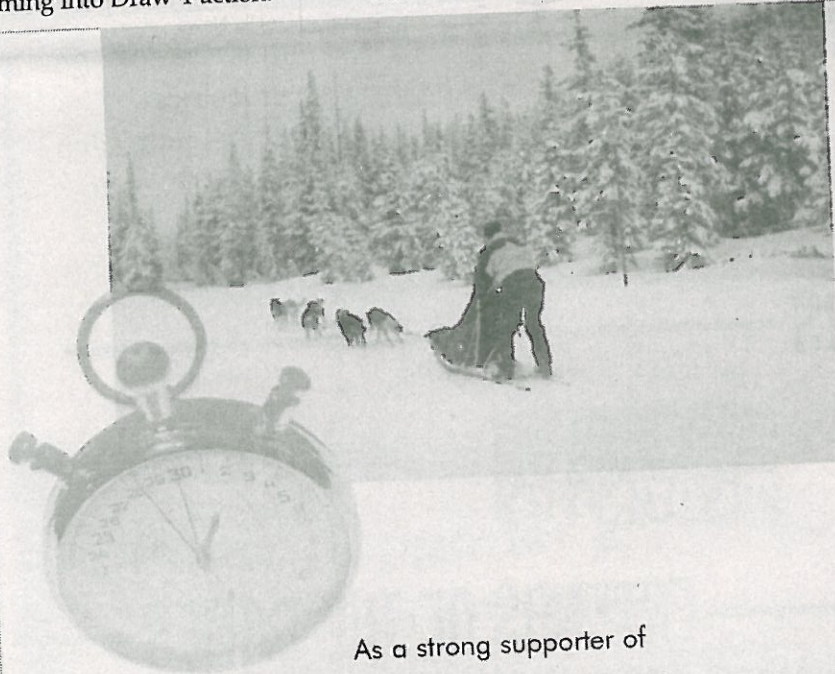
"Our lead's throwing them through. The front end was lacking, the lead," the skip retorted.

While Walker sweated through his game with Persinger, 15-year-old Alberta North skip Michelle Trarback, from the Grande Prairie Curling Club, walloped Nunavut's Deneen Reti 12-1.

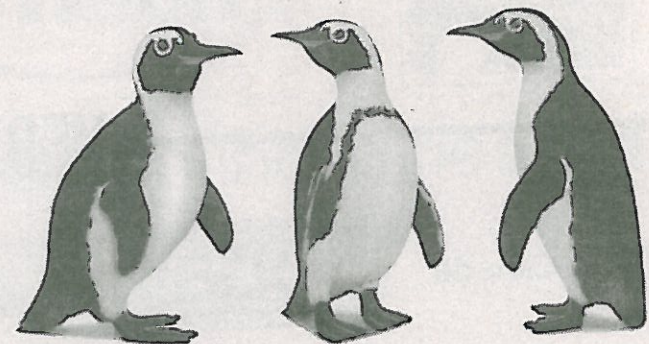
She then dropped a 12-9 decision to Alaska in Draw 5 Wednesday night to finish the round robin at 3-1.

Rounding out Trarback's foursome is lead Angela Gruber, second Meagan Boisvert and 16-year-old third Janelle Perry.

“
I didn't make
much of my
shots as lead,
but we put up a
good fight until
toward the end.
”

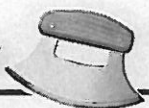


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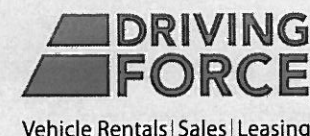
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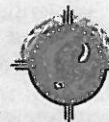
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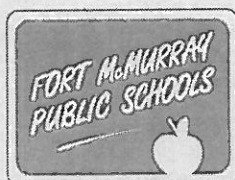
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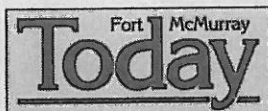
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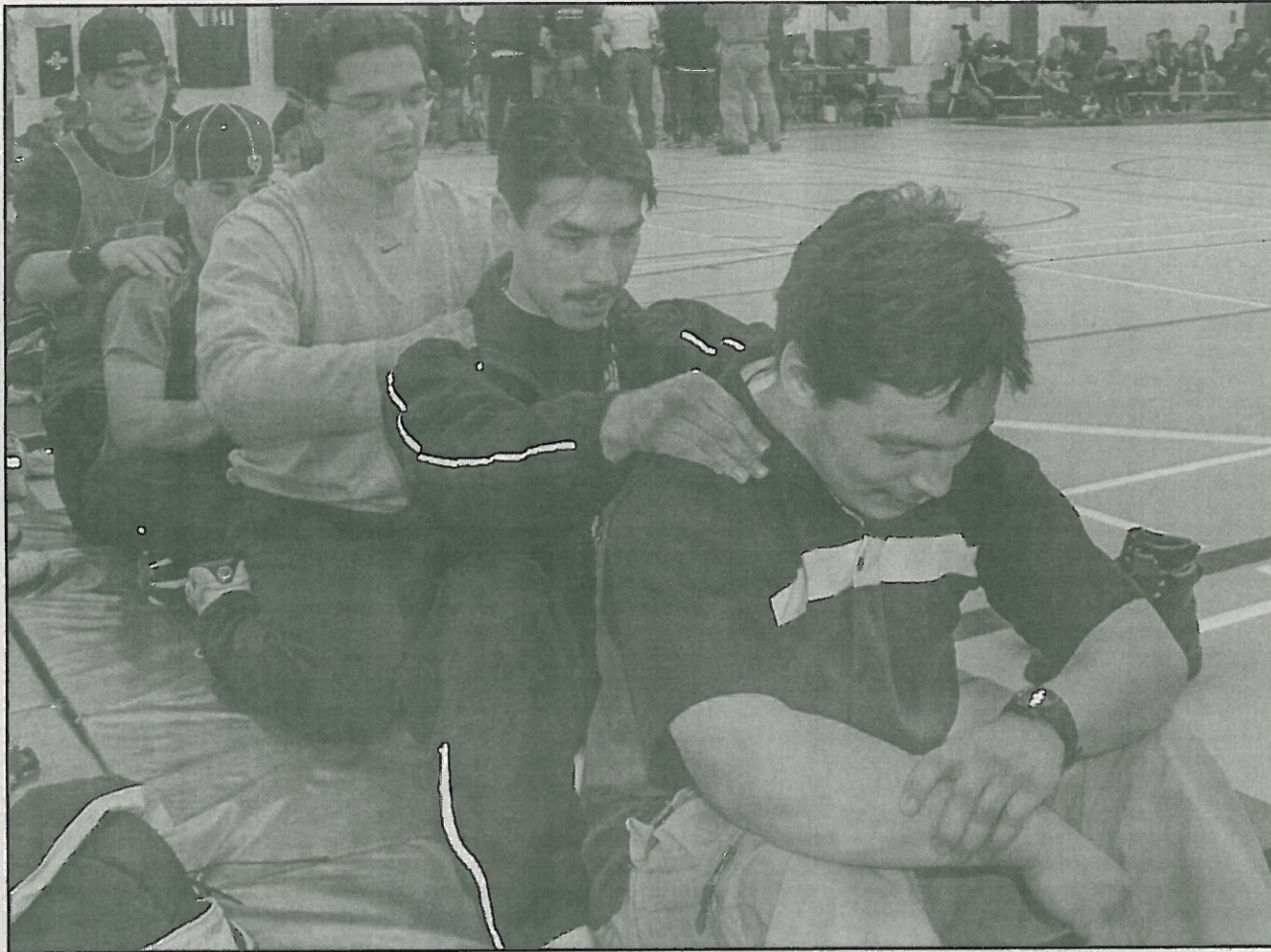
By **MAX MAUDIE**
Ulu News

Security for Arctic Winter Games events held in Fort Chipewyan was handled by an elite squad of Canadian soldiers, the Ulu news has learned.

Members of the Canadian Ranger Patrol Group based in Fort Chipewyan also served as honour guard for Adrian Clarkson's arrival to Alberta's oldest settlement.

Bourke said Clarkson thanked the group for greeting her arrival. Later, two days of Games events were held in the small town's school.

"It was great. It would be nice to see more events like that. That little map dot on the map (Fort Chipewyan) means something to somebody now."



WORKING OUT THE TENSION — Members of Team Nunavik-Quebec rub each other down before the Airplane event in Fort Chipewyan on Tuesday. Photo by **MAX MAUDIE**, Ulu News



CBC brings the games home

ON RADIO...

Wild Rose Country – Alberta with host Donna McElligott
Monday, March 1: Tune-in for a live broadcast from the Arctic Winter Games in Wood Buffalo. Host Donna McElligott will give Alberta listeners a flavour of the games and a preview of the rest of the week.

Wild Rose Country – Alberta

March 1 to 5: Reporter Adrienne Lamb will deliver reports to Wild Rose Country for the duration of the Games with athlete profiles, games information and Ulu results, targeted to the Alberta listener Adrienne will also be contributing to National Arts reports.

ON TELEVISION...

CBC Canada Now – Alberta with host Portia Clark

Monday, March 1: Tune-in for a live broadcast into the Alberta supper hour program from Wood Buffalo 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Host Portia Clark will give Albertans a taste of the activities on Day 1 of the Games.

CBC Canada Now - Alberta

March 1 to 5: Video journalist David Gerow and the CBC North Television crew will deliver reports to **CANADA NOW ALBERTA** during the week, with updates on Ulu results, sports and cultural activities.

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Airplane a gruelling, painful contest

By MAX MAUDIE
Ulu News

Fort Chipewyan, Alberta's oldest settled community, was the site Tuesday of the most excruciating event of the Arctic games.

The male open airplane event was held at the Athabasca Delta Community school. The gym was packed for the second day of events here.

At the town's airport that morning, planes were operating as scheduled. But in the gym, the planes were crashing and burning.

Athletes grunted and groaned as they were hoisted up by their hands and feet. Parallel to the ground, arms extended to their sides, they held this position as carriers "flew"

them along the floor of the gym.

The airplane is test of strength, endurance and power.

Many of the planes didn't get off the ground. Some did, but their wings bent or crumpled. A few had to check in to the hangar for repairs.

Record holder Makabe Nartok over a decade ago made it almost 161 feet.

"It's a total body competition," said Tommy Palliser, 28. The Nunavik-Quebec competitor's plane was one of the planes that crashed. He checked in for repairs and came out in a sling.

Make no mistake though; most people wouldn't even pass an initial inspection for takeoff.

"I had the same (injury last Games). This time

around, the shoulder completely popped out," said Palliser who is also the coach of the Nunavik-Quebecers.

Another competitor, after straining his cargo area, lay on a mat through the lunch break with an ice pack on his back. He pulled it together for the head pull, though.

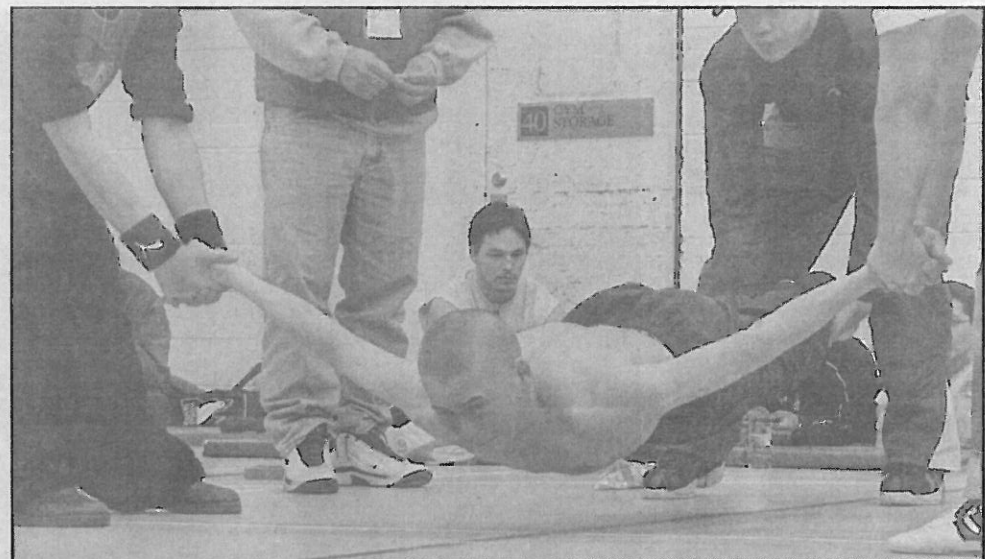
As Nunavut coach and competitor Allen Anavilok approached the runway, the 47-year-old kidded he had forgot his cane.

Most would be lucky to be as spry as this guy.

He got up smooth and strong, but his shoulder gave out in what he calls the toughest event of the Games.

Anavilok said this wouldn't slow him down though.

"I'll never quit," he said



Team Yamal's Rodion Taligin Tuesday does his best to stay up in the grueling Arctic sport airplane.

Photo by MAX MAUDIE, Ulu News

with conviction.

Gold ulu winner in the event, 31-year-old Greenlander Erneeraq Liudenhann, was vibrating on the tarmac before take-off.

"It was tension," he said through a translator. "(I was) also trying to focus all my energy for my muscles,

to fill (my) body with energy."

He credits his fishing and hunting activities back home for his well-muscled physique. He flew 35' 8 1/2".

This is Liudenhann's second Arctic Games. According to his translator John Telling, he qualified

for the last Games only because he was the single available Greenlander who could get off the ground.

Second-place Jacob Loos of the Yukon made it 28' 5" and third-place Norman Saunders held strong for 14' 10 1/2". Saunders went on to take a silver ulu in the head pull.

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Medalists, Day 4

Alpine skiing — slalom — junior female

Gold: Lisa Turley, Alberta
 Silver: Jessica Lade, Alberta
 Bronze: Cassie Dawn Campbell, Alberta

Alpine skiing — slalom — junior male

Gold: Spencer Chaulk, Alberta
 Silver: Alex Harding, Alberta
 Bronze: Rudolf Vetterlain, Greenland

Alpine skiing — slalom — juvenile female

Gold: Anya Zimmerman, Yukon
 Silver: Sarah Boisen, Alaska
 Bronze: Tukummeq Ingemann, Greenland

Alpine skiing — slalom — juvenile male

Gold: Samuel Kent, Yukon
 Silver: Michael Kelly, Alaska
 Bronze: Vilhelm Levisen, Greenland

Arctic sports — Alaskan high kick — open female

Gold: Meika McDonald, N.W.T.
 Silver: Nicole Johnston, Alaska
 Bronze: Heather Okheena, N.W.T.

Arctic sports — Alaskan high kick — open male

Gold: Jesse Frankson, Alaska
 Silver: David Thomas, Alaska
 Bronze: Matthew Anikina, N.W.T.

Arctic sports — Alaskan high kick — junior female

Gold: Alissa Joseph, Alaska
 Silver: Lena Belenko, Magadan
 Bronze: Bodil Mikaelson, Greenland

Arctic sports — Alaskan high kick — junior male

Gold: Aisa Anautak, Nunavut
 Silver: Chris Merkosak, Nunavut
 Bronze: Tootoo Tanuyak, Nunavut

Cross-country skiing — 5K free — midget female

Gold: Jaime Bronga, Alaska
 Silver: Janelle Greer, Yukon
 Bronze: Marja Partapuoli, Sami

Cross-country skiing — 5K free — midget male

Gold: Lex Treinen, Alaska
 Silver: David Norris, Alaska
 Bronze: Eric Packer, Alaska

Cross-country skiing — 7.5K free — juvenile female

Gold: Tonje Haanes-Rensberg, Sami
 Silver: Sivi Jomppanen, Sami
 Bronze: Aila Selfors, Sami

Cross-country skiing — 7.5K free — juvenile male

Gold: Bogdan Pauk, Yamal
 Silver: Ray Sabo, Yukon
 Bronze: Morten Tobiassen, Sami

Cross-country skiing — 10K free — junior female

Gold: Brittany Greer, Yukon
 Silver: Trine Olsen, Sami
 Bronze: Naja Nielsen, Greenland

Cross-country skiing — 10K free — junior male

Gold: Nikita Bulygin, Yamal
 Silver: Loren Schmidt,

Alaska
 Bronze: Timophei Pastukhov, Yamal

Dene games — finger pull — open male

Gold: Edua Jones, Nunavik
 Silver: Paul Savard, Nunavik
 Bronze: Garry Hull, Alaska

Dene games — finger pull — junior female

Gold: Antonia Dryneck, N.W.T.
 Silver: Priscilla Itsi, N.W.T.
 Bronze: Christy Dupuis, Yukon

Dene games — finger pull — junior male

Gold: Paulusie Beaulne, Nunavik
 Silver: Johnathon Arey, N.W.T.
 Bronze: Peter Lennie, N.W.T.

Dog mushing — 7.5K, 4 dogs (team) — junior co-

ed
 Gold: Alaska
 Silver: N.W.T.
 Bronze: Alberta

Dog mushing — 10K, 6 dogs (team) — junior co-ed

Gold: N.W.T.
 Silver: Alaska
 Bronze: Yukon

Snowboarding — slopestyle — junior female

Gold: Callan Chythlook-Sifsof, Alaska
 Silver: Katrina Couch, Yukon
 Bronze: Ashley Egan, N.W.T.

Snowboarding — slopestyle — junior male

Gold: Cody Burchell, Alberta
 Silver: Tuumarsi Olsen, Greenland
 Bronze: Colin Campbell, Alberta

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Head pull gold ulu winner makes good on promise to daughter

By **MAX MAUDIE**
Ulu News

In winning ulu gold, Team Nunavut's Tim Angotigoar kept a big promise Monday.

After coming out on top of the heap of head pullers, Angotigoar, 41, could hardly contain himself.

"I made a promise to my daughter July 16, 2003," he said proudly. "I remember the date because she wrote it on the calendar."

He had told his daughter of his glory days winning Arctic Games medals. The 12-year-old wanted her dad to do it again.

Angotigoar said he

had retired from Arctic events at the time, but when the territorial tryouts came around he signed up to see what he could do.

"This is for her," he said.

The head pull sees two opponents square off in a duel of stamina and raw strength.

Facing each other eye-to-eye, touching the ground with only their hands and toes, and bound by a two-foot strap around their heads, it's a battle to pull the strap off the opponent, or drag the opponent over the target line.

The event places tremendous stress on athletes' bodies. Heads jerk

back at whiplash speeds when straps slip off, and muscles twist and contort in ways some might think they ought not to.

Team Yukon's Tyler Cusick made it to the elite eight, but came up wincing after an intense and long match to get there.

Getting a rub down for his next match, Cusick explained he suffers from scoliosis, an abnormal curve in his spine.

"I was pulling really hard, (my opponent) put a lot of pressure on it," he said.

He put up a good fight the next match, but came up short.

His opponent in that



Team Northwest Territories' Gary Okheena headpulls to bronze in Fort Chipewyan Tuesday. "I got my second medal of the games," he said. "I feel really good."

Photo by **MAX MAUDIE**, Ulu News

match, team Nunavik-Quebec's Norman Saunders, 20, went on to face the older, larger Angotigoar in the final.

Saunders had earlier won a bronze ulu in the open males' airplane.

Angotigoar got the better of Saunders in the match, but gave credit to his younger opponent.

"It was hard, but I had my mind somewhere else. At home, with my daughter, a promise," said the

veteran Angotigoar.

Saunders was disappointed, but he kept a smile on his face.

"I was supposed to win," he said after the final. "The gold is in my heart."

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 Yukon	25	18	19	62
 Alaska	18	18	19	55
 Alberta	14	18	22	54
 N.W.T.	11	16	17	44
 Magadan	5	6	4	15
 Greenland	5	4	5	14
 Yamal	7	3	3	13
 Nunavut	3	5	5	13
 Nunavik	7	3	2	12
 Sami	2	6	4	12



GOING FOR GOLD — Megan Bush of Team Alaska receives the gold ulu for 5km junior girls' snowshoe at the Wednesday night ulu presentations at Atco Plaza. This is the first of two medals Bush received for snowshoeing Wednesday night; she also earned the silver in snowshoe combined.
Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

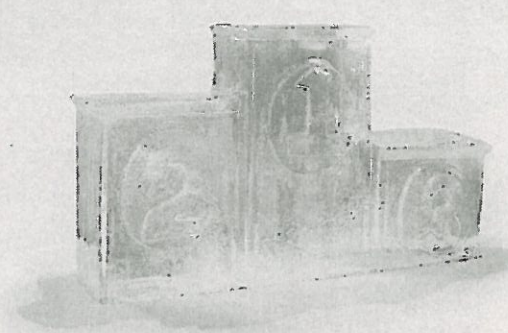
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