

NEWS

The Official Publication of the 1990 Arctic Winter Games

December 1989

New sports test strength, speed, skill

Four new tests of strength, speed, skill and endurance have been added to the roster of sports for the 1990 Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife.

Dene games, dog sled racing, individual triathlon and cross-country ski marathon are the newcomers to the March 11-17 Games.

Dog sled racing, or dog mushing as it's more commonly known, makes its debut in the AWG with three events for Junior racers. The racers, between the ages of 13 and 16, and their three-dog teams will compete in races of five, 7.5 and 10 kilometres.

The Dene games (which fall under Arctic Sports) include five events: finger pull, hand game, pole push, snowsnake and

stick pull.

The finger pull begins with two players sitting facing each other. One player sits with his or her right leg bent, while the other player braces himself or herself with both feet against the shin of the other player's bent leg. The first player leans slightly backward, braces his right elbow against his bent right thigh and places his left hand on the other player's left knee. The second player braces his left hand on the first player's left shoulder and the two lock their middle fingers.

When signalled, both players begin pulling slowly and steadily—no jerking or twisting motions are allowed. The object of the pull is for the second player to pull the first player's arm slowly

out, or cause the first player to straighten his finger.

The winner of a "pull" is declared if the defensive player's hand is straightened. If the offensive player is unable to straighten the defensive player's arm in 20 seconds, the defensive player is declared the winner.

This competition is a best-of-three pulls series. Following the first pull, the players switch positions. If a third pull is necessary, a coin is flipped and the winner selects the offensive or defensive position.

The Dene hand game is a team competition featuring two teams of four players. The teams form two lines and the players kneel across from an opponent. Each team is provided with 30 tokens, each of which can easily be concealed in a hand.

The teams take turns hiding the tokens in one hand or the other and guessing. Each player on the hiding team takes a token and, with hands behind his or her back, places the token in one hand or the other. Presenting their hands for the other team to see, players attempt to fool their opponents with elaborate gestures of the hands, arms, head and upper body.

Players on the opposing team then guess which hand contains the token. The second team then repeats the motions of hiding the token and the first team takes a turn at guessing. The competition continues until one team has won all of the other tokens or 30 minutes has elapsed. The team with the most tokens at the end of 30 minutes is declared the winner.

In the stick pull, two players face each other and use one hand to grasp opposite ends of a birch or spruce stick of about

12 inches in length and one inch in diameter. When signalled to start, each player attempts to pull the stick out of the other's hand.

Players cannot attempt to twist or turn the stick but instead must use a hard, steady pulling motion. Each competition consists of as many as three pulls.

The pole push is a unique northern version of tug-of-war in which two teams of four players stand within a 30-foot circle and grasp opposite ends of a pine or spruce pole which is 20 to 25 feet in length and five to six inches in diameter. Each team then attempts to push the other out of the ring.

In the snowsnake, players use an underhand delivery to throw a three-foot stick or spear along the surface of a snow-covered field at least 100 metres in length. The player who throws the spear the furthest is declared the winner.

Although team triathlon is no stranger to the Games, individual triath-

lon is making its AWG debut in 1990.

In individual triathlon, each contingent will be represented by three men and three women. Each player will ski 20 kilometres, run 15 kilometres and skate ten kilometres, says triathlon coordinator Dave McCann of Yellowknife.

Triathletes will also combine together to compete in the team triathlon. This event consists of a five kilometre ski and run and a two kilometre skate.

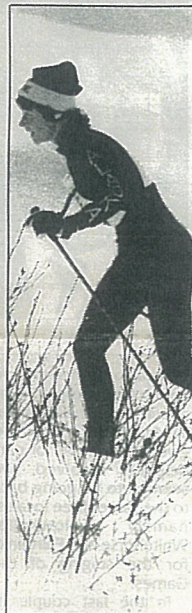
Another popular addition to the 1990 AWG is the cross-country ski marathon. In this demanding event, players ski from Yellowknife to Prelude Lake and back, a total of 64 kilometres (40 miles) before camping for the night.

The next day, the players must once again ski to Prelude Lake and back. Winners will be determined by the best accumulated times from Day One and Day Two (excluding the time for the overnight stop).

The race is a test of endurance and stamina.

Each competitor must be completely self-sufficient and carry all necessary supplies.

For information on the remaining 1990 AWG sports, see the next issue.



Celebrating
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1990 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.
March 11 - 17

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Games future looks bright

This month, the ULU News spoke with Arctic Winter Games Corporation President Don Cooper of Yellowknife on the future of the Games.

ULU News: As a volunteer member of the AWG Corporation since 1984, what do you see in the future for the AWG?

Cooper: The immediate future, I think, is pretty bright.

There was a feeling in the not too distant past that the Arctic Winter Games were starting to lose a bit of the romance because it was almost always the same three jurisdictions competing.



Don Cooper

We also seemed to have gotten away from the emphasis on the cultural aspect of the Games. And given the number of participants involved, we seemed to be going back to the same three locales, namely Yellowknife, Whitehorse and Fairbanks for the staging of the Games.

In the last couple of years, however, we've had some significant developments. One is that Alberta is moving towards full team size and will be hosting either the 1994 or 1996 Arctic Winter Games.

At that time, Northern Alberta will become a full partner. This will mean, if nothing else, there will be genuine medal competi-

tion in every sport.

Maybe the most exciting development is that Greenland is coming with a contingent of 36 to 40 athletes and some cultural performers, and that the Soviet Union is sending approximately 10 cultural performers and possibly two sports observers.

This means it's definitely possible that Greenland will continue to send a contingent of athletes and the Soviets might be invited, if they would like an invitation, to send some athletes.

Should the Soviets wish to send athletes, we would encourage them to send indigenous peoples, native people from northeastern Siberia, as opposed to a white Russian.

We'd want the native peoples to participate because of their blood ties with the native people in western Alaska.

Those are some of the developments I see in the near future. I also see the participation of northern Quebec the next time around.

It's unfortunate that they were unable to come this time for political reasons related to the Quebec government, but we have reason to believe they'll participate next time and they'll be invited. A representative of that region will attend the 1990 Games as an observer and will participate in the discussions we have at every set of AWG with the political representatives of each jurisdiction.

As for other developments, I believe the Games will definitely grow in size.

The 1990 AWG are the most ambitious undertaking by any Host Society to date.

Future growth, however, may cause some people to believe the Games are getting too big. However, as the AWG are extremely popular and have become the premier sporting event in the

North, we certainly have political support in the NWT, Yukon and Alberta, and we believe that the support is also there in Alaska to continue on and make them bigger and better.

ULU News: Is there a possibility that other polar countries will someday participate in the AWG?

Cooper: That's always a possibility but I think we've got to walk before we run.

One thing that has been all too apparent in the

past year and a half in trying to make arrangements with Greenland and the Soviet Union is that it's a lot more difficult when you have to go through External Affairs and try to communicate with people who don't speak our language and vice-versa.

It's not a simple matter of phoning up someone you know who is in authority and with whom you can make all the arrangements you have to in a 20-minute phone call.

Considering that the AWG Corporation is a

volunteer organization, we would need more infrastructure in place and a greater political commitment from all the units to move in this direction.

We also must be careful that we don't get so big that hosting the Games becomes an inordinate burden on the host community. The budgets are increasing every set of Games and, in the case of Yellowknife and Whitehorse, there could come a day when these cities simply won't be able to host the Games if we keep

adding athletes and units.

ULU News: Is there a possibility that Greenland, the Soviet Union or some other country will someday host the Games?

Cooper: There hasn't been any talk about this possibility since it presupposes that Greenland will become a full, or near to full, participant sending more than 300 athletes, coaches and mission staff. And I have reason to believe that won't happen because of the prohibitive financial cost of such an undertaking.

Corporation behind scenes

Few participants in the 1990 Arctic Winter Games will recognize Don Cooper as he goes about his business — and that suits the president of the AWG Corporation just fine.

"We're not really in the public eye, which is good: that isn't our job and we don't really want to be," says Cooper, a lawyer who has served with the AWG Corporation since 1984.

"The only time we're occasionally in the public eye is after the selection of sports for the next set of Games; when a particular sport feels it hasn't been treated well and calls for our heads."

If Cooper and his colleagues are somewhat unknown by the remainder of participants in the Games, the AWG Corporation is even more of a mystery.

"The simplest way to describe the Corporation's function, and I don't want this to sound pretentious, is to say we provide the same function for the Arctic Winter Games that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) provides for the Olympics," says Cooper.

The AWG Corporation sets the rules for the Games, selects the host community for each set of AWG, enters into contracts with the host municipalities, decides which sports are to be included in each set of Games, determines the numbers of participants, sets the technical package, monitors preparations by the Host Society for the Games and attempts to ensure those preparations are



The Arctic Winter Games Corporation Board of Directors

progressing well.

"We also deal at the political level when required with various governments, including the Government of Canada which provides grants to the NWT and Yukon for either travel or hosting the Games," says Cooper.

"Generally, we perform the same function as the IOC, although I dare say on a much less grandiose level."



The AWG Corporation is comprised of seven directors: Alaska, Yukon and the NWT are each represented by two directors, while Northern Alberta has one director on the AWG Corporation.

"There's only one from Alberta because they only send a partial team. When they do reach full team size they'll have two direc-

tors," Cooper explains.

In the NWT and Yukon, one director is a government appointee who is traditionally recruited from the director level of Sport and Recreation. The other director is from the private sector. Alberta is currently represented by the assistant deputy minister of Sport and Recreation.

In Alaska, where the government structure is considerably different from the Canadian provinces and territories, the directors are both from the private sector.

"One of the Alaskan directors is a businessman (Jim Whisenant) who owns a couple of sporting good stores and the other (Don Cather) happens to be a government employee but in a field totally unrelated to sports. He's just someone who has a long history of being involved with the Arctic Winter Games."

Cooper's colleagues on the AWG Corporation's Board of Directors are: vice-president Jim Whisenant of Fairbanks, Alaska; secretary Don Cather of Anchor-


age, Alaska; treasurer Gerry Thick of Whitehorse, Yukon; technical director Dennis Adams of Yellowknife, NWT; director Murray Finnerby of Edmonton, Alberta, and director Tom O'Hara of Whitehorse.

Looking back on his years of involvement with the AWG Corporation, Cooper describes the work as "very satisfying."

"Although it can be quite a heavy workload, I think everyone involved really cares and... I for one have enjoyed my association with the Arctic Winter Games."

Cooper adds that he's thankful for the growing support the AWG Corporation has received from government over the past several years.


"We have been very fortunate to have the political support of the people in charge of Sport and Recreation: Gordon Wray from the NWT, Piers MacDonald from the Yukon, Norm Weiss from Alberta, and from Alaska, Governor Steve Cowper and State Legislators Niilo Kopenan and Steve Frank."



news

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Growing Corporate Support

The ULU News would like to take this opportunity to recognize the corporate sponsors who are contributing towards sporting events, venues and ceremonies.

Igloo Building Supplies is the official sponsor of building supplies for the 1990 Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife.

Igloo is supplying

\$20,000 worth of building supplies for the construction of outdoor sites for silhouette shooting, cross-country skiing and biathlon, as well as for renovations for indoor soccer and badminton, and signs.

"We're very honoured and pleased to help the Arctic Winter Games," says Igloo's Principal Director Joy Stewart-Bidniak. "We

put most of our advertising budget into sponsoring minor sports across the NWT, so it's natural for us to support the Arctic Winter Games."

Igloo Building Supplies has also offered to supply the pinnies, or bibs, for skiing, snowshoeing, dog mushing and triathlon.

"My mother is working on developing a pinnie

that will work for the Arctic Winter Games," Bidniak says. "They will be used in the other communities after the Games are over. We anticipate those who use them will be excited to wear the ones used during the Games."

Also backing sporting events are corporate sponsors such as the NWT Power Corporation, Polar Gas, Northern Transportation Company Ltd. (NTCL), Foothills Pipe Lines, Giant Yellowknife Mines, Nerco Con Mine Ltd., First Air, T.C. Oil Distributors affiliated companies and Esso Canada.

Each of these corporations contributed \$10,000 per event to become the official sponsor of that particular sport.

The NWT Power Corporation is the official sponsor of volleyball, while Polar Gas is sponsoring dog mushing. NTCL is sponsoring Arctic Sports, Foothills Pipe Lines is the official sponsor of indoor soccer, while T.C. Oil and Esso are backing wrestling, hockey and curling.

Amoco is the official sponsor of triathlon. Giant is sponsoring biathlon, and Nerco is the official sponsor of the opening ceremonies. First Air is sponsoring the closing ceremonies. The Elks have provided \$20,000 for sleeping bags and sports bags for athletes, while Molson's has contributed \$5,000 as the co-sponsor of the media/results centre and the volunteer banquet.

Sponsorship for three other events are pending, leaving four sporting events and the awards ceremonies without sponsors. For more information, contact the AWG Host Society's office at (403) 873-5858 in Yellowknife.



Joy Stewart-Bidniak, Igloo Building Supplies.

NWT Air sponsors ULU News

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society is pleased to announce that NWT Air has become the official sponsor of the ULU News for the 1990 Games.

NWT AIR is providing \$20,000 to assist in publishing this, the official newspaper of the 1990 Arctic Winter Games.

"NWT Air is obviously a very good corporate citizen and we certainly welcome their participation in the Games," says Charles Dent of the Host Society's executive committee.

"It's nice to see them get into a high profile activity such as the ULU News

since communication and transportation go hand in hand," Dent adds.

The ULU News is being published monthly in November, December, January and February. Issues will be circulated at the end of each month. The ULU News will go daily during the week of the game and will feature games results, photographs, and feature stories on athletes, performers, and people behind the scenes.

The 1990 Arctic Winter Games, to be held in Yellowknife, NWT, from March 11-17, mark the 20th anniversary of the largest single sporting and

cultural event in northern Canada.

The Games will bring together participants from the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Northern Alberta, Alaska and Greenland. More than 1,200 athletes will compete in a range of 17 indoor and outdoor sporting events. A delegation from the Magadan Peninsula in the Soviet Union is also expected to participate in the cultural festivities.

The 1990 Arctic Winter Games provide a showplace for athletic, social and cultural exchange which fosters education, understanding and friendship between all peoples of the North.

Message from Host Society President



Don Sian

Since this issue of the ULU News highlights the sporting events of the 1990 Arctic Winter Games, my column this month deals with sports and venues.

When we began preparations for the 1990 Games in Yellowknife, some sporting bodies, such as indoor soccer, expressed concern over the venues.

Unfortunately, it's a fact of life in Yellowknife that there are just not enough major facilities to meet all the needs of all sports. Despite these limitations, the Host Society is doing

everything it can to assist the sport organizers in making accommodations for their events.

Members of the Host Society, such as facilities chairman Max Hall, have taken creative approaches to overcoming these shortfalls. As a result, site and venue preparations, such as those for the silhouette shooting and biathlon ranges, are progressing very well.

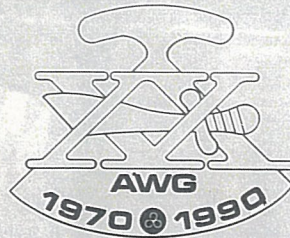
I'd like to close this month's column by passing along a few comments from AWG Corporation President Don Cooper on

preparations to date by the Host Society.

"I'm satisfied that the Board of Directors is a serious working group as are the chairpersons of the various committees. The office personnel, including Peter Doyle and Jackie Radley, are doing an excellent job," Cooper recently told the ULU News.

"The preparations that I've seen are either right on time or they're ahead of schedule in virtually every sport and organizational committee."

"I'm impressed and so are my colleagues on the Corporation."



1990 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES OFFICIAL SPONSORS

The Yellowknife (1990) Arctic Winter Games Host Society wishes to thank the following sponsors of the 1990 Games.

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March 1988 AWG, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ULU NEWS MESSAGE

1990 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES



GORDON WRAY, Minister Responsible for Arctic Winter Games



It was two decades ago that the Arctic Winter Games were commenced with two major goals - to provide Northern athletes with the opportunity to participate and improve their skills against athletes of similar background and ability, and to foster friendship and understanding among Northern people through sport and cultural activities.

I am very pleased to say that we have gone far beyond these initial goals of the Games both in athlete participation and cultural exchange. In 1970 there were 1200 athletes from 16 communities participating in the Regional Trials leading up to the selection of the Northwest Territories team, while this year we expect more than 2500 athletes from more than 48 communities. In 1970 there were 236 athletes from only 7 communities competing at the actual Games, while this year we expect 325 athletes from 37 communities. For the first time athletes from Greenland will be participating. Four new sports have been added to the Games which include Traditional Dene Games, Junior Dog Mushing, Junior Wrestling and Open Women's Hockey. Cultural per-

formers from the Soviet Union and Greenland will be represented for the first time and along with performers from Alaska, Yukon, Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories should provide a cultural showcase in Yellowknife for the 1990 Games.

There is only a short time before the official opening of the Games on March 11, 1990. The Regional Trials have been completed and the N.W.T. Trials are upcoming. Excitement is beginning to develop throughout the Northwest Territories and in particular in Yellowknife where the Host Society staff and Board of Directors have the organization for the Games well in hand.

As Minister responsible for the 1990 Arctic Winter Games I would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere welcome to all residents of the Northwest Territories to take part in this 20th year of celebrating the Arctic Winter Games.