

Olympics to Be at UA's Patty Gym, Housing, Meals for Performers Set

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Snyder of Nome, now residing in Sitka, have entered their 8 month old baby into the World Eskimo Olympics of 1970, Native Baby Contest.

The Eskimo Olympics will be held at the University of Alaska's Patty Gymnasium on July 31 and August 1.

Housing for the Olympics has been arranged at one of the dormitories on the campus of the university.

Eating arrangements for the out of city performers have been made at the University of Alaska Commons on the campus.

Chairman of the Eskimo Olympics Laura Bergt had all these to announce this week and a lot more.

Laura made a jet trip to Barrow on June 22 and arranged to buy 50 pounds of bowhead whale muktuk for the popular muktuk eating contest.

She also arranged to have six seals for seal skinning contest, one of the most crowd-pleasing events in the native program.

Mrs. Rhoda Nageak of Barrow, who has been consistently winning the event for the past several years, will again pit her high speed seal skinning art against two other Eskimo women in each of the two days of the Olympics.

Laura also pointed out that 12 pounds of the 50 pounds of muktuk was donated by Rep.

Willie Hensley who was on his campaign trail in Barrow last week.

Pete Sovalik and his Eskimo dance group in Barrow are taring to come to the Olympics and do their ever colorful dances in contests against other Eskimo dance teams.

Peter Jimmy and his Athabaskan Indian dancers of Minto will again perform in colorful contests against other Indian dance groups. Barrow and Minto have been consistent winners in their respective performances in past years.

A spanking new walrus hide blanket for the exciting blanket toss events is now being prepared by Vernon Slwooko of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island.

The blanket is being donated

by the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce to Tundra Times with the provision that the chamber

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borrowed it for special events. The native newspaper recently took over the management and operation of the Eskimo Olympics from the Fairbanks Chamber.

Vernon Slwooko wrote Laura Bergt that two walrus hides were being prepared in his village which would be stretched and dried soon. They will then be sewn together with durable raw-hide thongs.

Laura said that she got to Barrow just in time to take part in whaling captain Winfred Ahvakana's whaling celebration on June 22.

"We ate and ate, quit for a while and then came back to eat more," said Laura.

She was optimistic that some Barrow women will be entering their babies in the native baby contest.

This category is a new event for the Olympics this year and it is expected to be a popular one. The winning baby's mother will lead other mothers and their babies on a parade around the floor of the Olympics.

Mothers and babies will be required to wear their native costumes for the event.

There will, of course, be Indian stick pull event, Eskimo hi-kick, both with one foot and two feet, knuckle hop, ear weight

contest, and other difficult events.

The new Miss World Eskimo Olympics of 1970 will be crowned by Miss Sara Seeberger, the current Miss Eskimo Olympics, on the evening of August 1. Sara is from Kotzebue.

The native queen pageant of the native program is expected to draw entries from Kotzebue, Tanana, Ft. Yukon, Nome, Barrow, Anchorage, Fairbanks and other localities.

The site of Eskimo Olympics, the UA's Patty Gym, is a spacious facility that can seat around 2,000 people.

The program was held there last year for the first time in its 9-year history.

Chairman Laura Bergt said Joe Upicksoun, executive director of the Artic Slope Native Association, was very helpful in making contacts for her in Barrow.

Lloyd Nageak will furnish the six seals. He got them from George Hopson. The seals will be air freighted to Fairbanks on or around July 24. Laura lined up the muktuk from Joe and Mabel Panigeo.

The admission prices to the Olympics are: \$2.50 per adult; and \$1.50 for children.