

Olympics include cultural skills competitions

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the influx of non-Natives to the state.

Those employees, Bud Hagberg and Frank Whaley, organized the games and encouraged Wien to fly contestants from four villages along their routes to compete in Fairbanks. The games were received enthusiastically from the start and the Eskimo Olympics soon grew to be a major annual event in the state.

The "Tundra Times" took over sponsorship of the event in 1970 and since then, the Olympics grew in record-breaking attendance and participation. By 1973, the games were expanded to include competitive Indian games and the event was renamed World Eskimo-Indian Olympics.

By 1976, the Olympics had grown so formidable that the "Tundra Times" relinquished control to a non-profit corporation whose sole duty was to organize the annual event.

The WEIO was an entirely volunteer effort in the past but last year one paid employee was hired using federal Comprehensive Education and Training Act funds. Wien airlines also donated semi-permanent office space for the WEIO board last year.

The WEIO committee now handles housing and transportation to and from the airport, solicits individuals, businesses

for scholarship funds and gifts for the WEIO Queen and her court, recruits judges and handles ticket sales, concession sales, and sales of merchandise. Reggie Joule, a top competitor and vice-president of the WEIO committee said that the committee is seeking a one-time \$75,000 grant from the state to help pay for athletes' transportation and to establish a year-round organizational office. Joule said the grant is intended to be a one-time deal and that the WEIO will begin seeking tax-free donations from individuals and corporations and businesses to help pay for future events.

This year the committee had a problem finding housing for all the 400 competitors. "The university said they can come up with only 200 beds but I'm sure that people can stay with relatives or friends."

"In the past the Olympics has paid for the cost of the whole event. The room and board, the cost of renting the gym, providing security, clean-up...It's on the shoulders of the whole Olympics committee."

The schedule for the WEIO follows:

THURSDAY, July 30, 6 p.m., Race of the Torch; 7 p.m., Lighting of the Seal Oil Lamp by Poldine Carlo and Pauline Buelna; March of all contestants, Invocation and Welcome by Richard Frank, president of WEIO; followed by Native Sewing Com-



Two competitors strain in the wrist pull competition in earlier Olympics.

petition (continues during games); dance competition, special recognition, greased pole walk for men and women, ear pulling contest, preliminary judging of queen contestants; fish-cutting competition, dance competition, story-telling competition, and white men versus Native women tug-of-war;

FRIDAY, July 31 - 1-5 p.m., one-foot high kick for men and women, dance, men's blanket toss, four-man carry, mens' blanket toss - finalists, 6 p.m.; 7 p.m., lighting of the lamps, marching of all contestants, invocation, welcome by Andrew Isaac and Yvonne Wright, 1980 WEIO queen and court, seal skinning contest, four-man carry, three finalists, story telling competition;

SATURDAY, Aug. 1 - 1 to 5

p.m., kneel jump, one-hand reach, Alaskan High Kick, dance, Indian Stick pull; 4 p.m., baby contest (finalists in evening); 6 p.m., women's blanket toss; 7 p.m., lighting of the lamps, march of all contestants; invocation, introduction of queen and march of all contestants; invocation, introduction of queen and court, welcome of 1981 WEIO queen, Knuckle hope, Native Baby Contest, three finalists, Native Sewing Contest winner announced and work auctioned off to the highest bidder with proceeds going to the winning seamstress, rope gymnastics, blanket toss finalists, one-foot high kick for men and women finalists, winners of story-telling competition, muskrat skinning competition, parka contest.

The "Bud" Hagberg Memorial

Outstanding Sportsmanship Award and the Howard Rock Memorial Trophy to the Outstanding Athlete of the Olympics will be presented at the Queen; Native sewing competition, Muktuk eating contest, interview of Queen contestants and judging, dance competition, two-foot high kick, mens' and women's finalists; coronation of close of the games on Saturday night.

Doors at Patty Gym on the University of Alaska open at 12:30 p.m. for the afternoon competition on Friday and Saturday and at 6 p.m. nightly with games beginning at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively.

Tickets are \$8 per night for adults and \$5 for children. Season tickets are \$15 and \$15 respectively.