

Mt. Edgecumbe gets award from Reebok lawsuit settlement

Sitka - Governor Tony Knowles announced that Alaska's share from the settlement of a nationwide anti-trust case will be used to fund athletic programs at the Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka.

Of the approximately \$18,000 received by the state, about half

will be used to fund expenses related to the school's participation in the annual Native Youth Olympics and support the school's three Native dance groups. The remainder will be used to buy athletic equipment and to help establish a year-long intramural athletic pro-

gram, part of Mt Edgecumbe's new student "wellness" program.

The funds come the settlement of an anti-trust lawsuit filed by several states against footwear maker Reebok International and its subsidiary, the Rockport Company. The lawsuit alleged consumers were overcharged for certain Reebok and Rockport products because of illegal price fixing and resale pricing practices. The companies settled the case by agreeing to prohibit future anti-trust violations and pay a total of \$9.5 million. As its share of the settlement,

the state of Alaska will receive a total of \$18,177. Rather than search out millions of individual purchasers of the shoes, the agreement allows the money to be distributed to benefit public or non-profit athletic programs in each state. Funds were distributed based on population. Since Alaska's share is relatively small, Governor Knowles has elected to give the entire amount to Mt. Edgecumbe, a state operated high school in Sitka.

"I can think of no better way of using this settlement than by investing it in Mt. Edgecumbe,"

Knowles said. "Mt. Edgecumbe attracts students from every corner of the state. Investing this money in programs such as the Native Youth Olympics and other sports activities is appropriate for our share of the settlement from a maker of running shoes. This settlement is good for jogs and families."

The settlement was approved by a New York court in August. Funds are to be distributed to the states next week. Knowles made the announcement in Sitka where he is attending Alaska Day ceremonies.