



-Photo By MARK KELLEY

Joule Memorial Trophy winner

Although he just missed winning the Two Foot High Kick and succeeded in breaking his ankle before he could break his record in the finals of the One Foot High Kick, Reggie Joule still came up a big winner.

The 24 year-old Eskimo athlete, from Kotzebue was awarded the first Howard Rock Memorial Trophy given to the most outstanding athlete of the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, held July 29 through 31 in the Patty Gymnasium at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The award was initiated this year following the death in April of Howard Rock, founder and former editor and publisher of the Tundra Times. It is given to the best all-around athlete of the games based on number of events entered, sportmanship, and quality of performance.

Joule was one of the Olympic favorites from the beginning. Assured and highly controlled in every event he entered, he exuded a charisma for the moment he lit the symbolic Eskimo Lamp at the dedication of the new Heritage Park, kicking off the 1976 games.

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Joule named Trophy winner . . .

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But a freak slip at the end of the Men's Blanket Toss on the second night of competition sent Reggie off the floor toward the Red Cross station dragging his right leg, face contorted in pain. An ice compress applied by both the Red Cross workers and the university ambulance team could not mend what turned out to be a broken ankle nor the broken dreams of winning the remaining events.

"He was really disappointed," said his wife Linda. "He had been aiming for that trophy and he was really hurt because he thought he would be out of the competition for it."

Reggie had entered almost every event possible on Thursday and Friday nights, taking third in the Greased Pole Walk and second in the Two Foot High Kick. As he sat waiting his turn to compete, he could be seen advising those before him how much they had missed by and how they could make it on the next try, shaking hands with those who had been eliminated. Competition, to be sure, but not at the expense of enjoyment or friendship.

Then the accident. And Saturday night, pale, still sporting his trademark black felt hat and his bright blue warm-up suit, he re-entered the gymnasium in a wheel chair. Leg propped on a pillow he smiled weakly at the cheering crowd.

So Reggie Joule watched the

last night of competition quietly, nearly motionless, from his wheelchair positioned directly in front of the officials' table, Linda and his sister Margaret constantly at his side.

Finally, the tense One Foot High Kick finals were over. Reggie had watched his own 1972 record of 7' 10" broken by the three finalists. Then Anthony Sarren of Wainwright, judged the winner, smiling ecstatically and perhaps a little apologetically, ran over and pumped Reggie's hand.

Suddenly, M.C. Alfred Grant called for attention and announced that the judges had already decided on the outstanding competitor and

sportsman of the 1976 Olympics. Reggie Joule had won big after all.

Awarded the coveted gold cup and a kiss from Queen Bea Ballot, he said he was very proud to have been chosen the outstanding athlete in memory of Howard Rock, and in this his sixth year at the Olympics he philosophized, "records will be broken and people will be people."

His wife says, "he's not the type to sit around and watch," so Reggie Joule plans to be back. As he said, with the memorial trophy shining in his lap, "I'm looking forward to next year, seeing old friends. It's like comin' home."