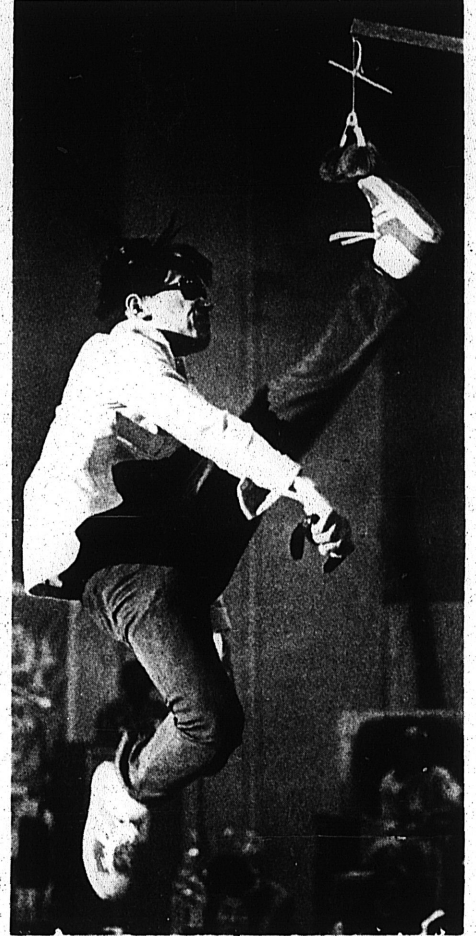
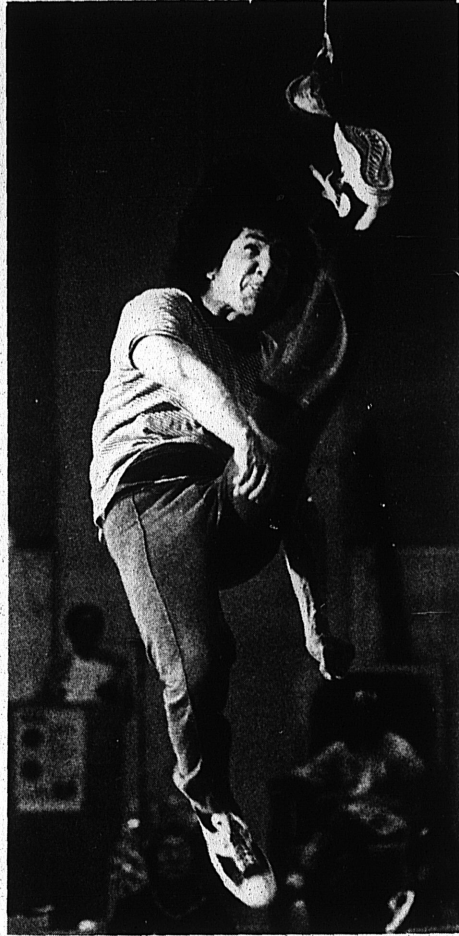
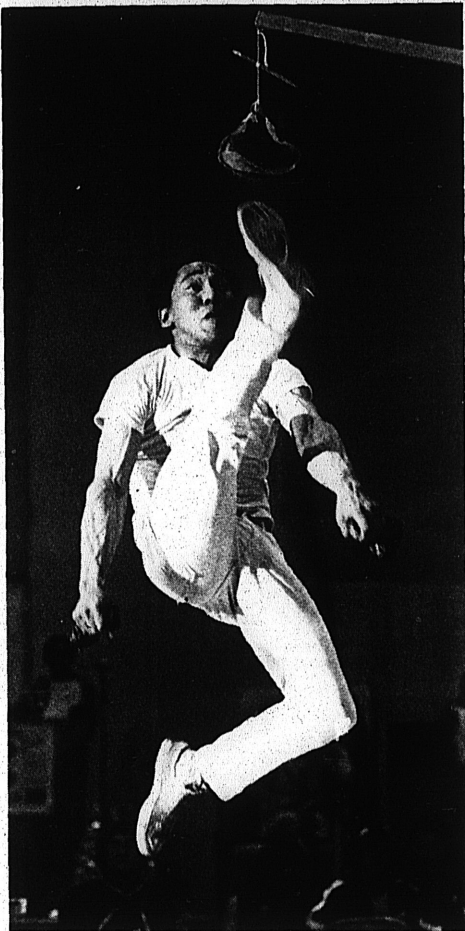


★ ★ ★ ★ Special souvenir section ★ ★ ★ ★

Howard Rock Memorial World Eskimo-Indian Olympics

★ ★ ★ ★ Photos By MARK KELLEY • Text By BETSY BRENNEMAN ★ ★ ★ ★



IN THE ONE FOOT high kick, three contestants tied at the new world record of 7 feet 11 inches. Basing their decision on the competitor's form and technique, the judges broke the tie by awarding first place to Anthony Sarren from Wainwright (far left), second place to Joshua Okpick from Barrow (middle), and third place to Robert Okpeaha also from Barrow.

ANTHONY SARREN

(Wainwright), winner by judges' decision of the One Foot High Kick, has been high kicking since he was a 12-year-old living in Unalakleet when Allen Soosuk spotted his agility and coached his prize-winning form.

The 30-year-old construction worker with the broad smile, is married and the father of two sons. He says he never exercises or practices and that what looks like a highly trained olympic gymnast's body comes only from "everyday natural work." He says he doesn't want to boast but feels like high kicking comes naturally. Still he knew the competition was tough, "If they can jump up there with a hat on, a jacket on, and cigarettes in their back pocket, they're good."

Missing the ball in the 8' 3/4" attempt made him feel "like jelly." He had thrown his body backwards too far. "I knew I had the form but I knew I didn't kick it, that's all I was thinking. It's like in a race, someone passes you, you feel you lost, that's it."

As a boy, Anthony high kicked in Unalakleet's January 1st and Fourth of July celebrations and the village finally asked him to compete in the Olympics. But Anthony was afraid of people. After college at AMU and Sheldon Jackson, Anthony was no longer afraid, "I found out who I was."



QUEEN BEA BALLOT

JOSHUA OKPICK (Barrow), a quiet, shy, but noticeable presence in almost every Olympic event, broke the record and kicked 7' 1-1/2" to win the Two Foot High Kick, narrowly defeating Reggie Joule. The 24 year old athlete tried to go for 7' 3", but that proved too high.

Joshua was pretty confident about winning the Two Foot event, but he was very surprised that he got high enough to be one of the three tied for first in the One Foot High Kick.

As a youngster in Barrow, Joshua decided that he'd better start high kicking when the bank began offering cash prizes to the winners of the town's holiday competitions. "I wanted to learn so I could buy candy," he laughs. So did he get to buy his candy? "Yeah, and go to movies, too!"

BEA BALLOT (Kotzebue), Miss Arctic Circle and now World Eskimo-Indian Olympics Queen, lives in Nome where she is a dental assistant with the Public Health Service.

When asked how she felt when crowned queen, Bea replied, "All wet from sweat." She had a hard time realizing what had happened to her until the final night of the Olympics when she watched the games from her velvet-seated throne on stage. Reality had finally sunk in, "I couldn't get the feeling at all until today. Tonight I finally realize, I am!"