

# 1973 Olympics: New Games A Hit So Is Wainwright

FAIRBANKS — Weir Negavonna of Wainwright played "Old Black Joe" with a violin bow and converted buck saw, then swapped it all for a skin drum in the 1973 World Eskimo-Indian Olympics.

The drum and the beat of an Eskimo song helped Wainwright dancers win top honors in the games, which ended Saturday night in an all-tribal dance.

For three days the spectacular of traditional Native games and dances drew hundreds of spectators and provided a colorful look into traditional sports, and, of course, a reunion for many old friends. The games are coordinated by the *Tundra Times*, which receives all profits.

Top Olympic athletes Reggie Joule, Kotzebue, Lester Bodfish, Wainwright and Roger Kunayak, Nome were to be on the Johnny Carson Show Tuesday night with Laura Bergt.

Joule hurled himself six feet eight inches into the air to win the two foot high kick, while Bodfish swung eight feet up into first place in the one-foot high kick.

Joule placed second in the one foot high kick, at seven feet nine inches, while Bodfish placed second at six feet two inches. Robert Okpeaha placed third in both events. He jumped seven feet five inches in the one foot high kick and six feet two inches in the other event.

Joule also won the Nalakutuk (blanket toss) competition for men, over Roger Kunayak, Nome, Billy Killbear, Barrow, Joe Kaska, Barrow and Robert Okpeah, Barrow.

But he conserved his energy enough to give a big kiss to 1973 World Eskimo-Indian Queen Martha Anagick, 19, of Unalakleet, as he claimed one of his trophies.

Martha, a sophomore at Stanford University, wore a purple corduroy parka with white fox ruff and wolf fur-trimmed mukluks. Nita Sheldon of Noorvik, Miss Fairbanks Native Association, was first runner up, and Darlene Seeburger of Kotzebue, Miss Arctic Circle, was chosen as Miss Personality.

Others in the queen's court were Dorothy Woods of Manley Hot Springs, Miss Tanana Chiefs, Evelyn Pederson of Nome, Miss Arctic Native Brotherhood, Lorraine Synder of Bethel, Miss Upward Bound, Lulu Atkins of Metlakatla, Miss Metlakatla, Carolyn Tritt of Arctic Village, Miss Arctic Village, and Edith Edwardsen of Barrow, Miss Barrow.

Queens committee chairman



**DISTANT DRUMMER** - Napatchcecalak, a Canadian Eskimo, demonstrates his singing style at the World Indian/Eskimo Olympics. He had just ended a 3,000 mile canoe trip from Repulse Bay to Point Barrow.

— Photo by FRANK MURPHY

Dee Kern, an Athabaskan beauty from Ruby, spent the week showing the contestants around Fairbanks, making media appearances, and keeping numerous appointments.

But after a new queen was safely on the throne, she entered the woman's Nalakutuk, and won over competitors Edith Edwardsen, Eva Kowunna, Barrow, Polly Tegoseak, Fairbanks and Laura Bergt, Fairbanks.

Winner of the Native baby contest was Lynette Winfrey of Minto.

Cliff Topkok of Teller won the Indian stick pull.

Walter Lord of Fairbanks proved the strongest of them all, carrying four men weighing a total 586 pounds for 44 feet, five inches. Leonard Menka of Koyukuk was second, carrying that group five feet, six inches and Joe Kasak of Barrow placed third, at two feet, 11 inches.

Freddie Titus of Minto went 800 feet with 18 pounds dangling from one ear to win the ear weight contest. In 1971 he set the ear weight record, carrying

19 pounds for 860 feet. Billy Killbear was second, at 544 feet 10 inches and Robert Okpeaha was third, at 93 feet.

Louis Pauken of Bethel won the ear pull contest.

Joshua Okpik Jr. of Barrow was the winner of drop-the-bomb, keeping stiff as he was carried 95 feet two inches. Joe Kasak placed second, at 60 feet 10 inches and Roger Kunayak was third at 51 feet.

Wainwright's 12 member dance team placed first among Eskimo Dancers and the 32 member contingent from Minto won top prize among Indian dance teams.

Indian leg wrestling winner was Robert Okpeaha and the champion muktuk eater was Roy Katairoak of Barrow. Billy Killbear placed second in that event.

Killbear also placed second in the knuckle hop, at 32 feet, eight inches. James Itta of Barrow won that event handily at 41 feet eight inches and Joshua Okpik Jr. of Barrow was third at 28 feet 11 inches.

Polly Tegoseak of Fairbanks placed first among Eskimo women sewers and Mabel Charlie was the top Indian sewer.

Seal skinning honors went to Rhoda Nageak of Barrow, who skinned out a seal in one minute 15 seconds. Beverly Negavanna of Wainwright was second at one minute 50 seconds.

The top fish cutters were Rhoda Nageak, at one minute 21 seconds and Olive Anderson of Kaktovik in one minute 25 seconds.

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The greased pole walk, new to the games this year, was won by James Itta, with Glen Alexander of Minto in second place and Bobbie Charlie of Minto in third.

Native women beat white men in the traditional tug of war between the two groups.

The games began Thursday night with the race of the torch, won by Peter Solomon of Fort Yukon.

Solomon then carried the torch into the Patty Gymnasium of the University of Alaska for the lighting of seal oil lamps by Poldine Carlo and Edith Tegoseak. And then with introductions, the games began.