



TOUGH ON EARS — Lorry Schuerch, referee, watches closely as two contestants battle eye to eye and ear to ear in the grueling ear pull contest. This event will be seen at this year's

World Eskimo - Indian Olympics to be held July 26-27-28 at the Patty Gymnasium on the University of Alaska campus in Fairbanks.

Our Best Olympians Slated For TV

Star of "Southern" Olympics Eager to See Alaskan Games...

A superstar of the 1974 Tokyo Olympic Games has been invited to appear at the farther north World Eskimo-

Indian Olympics to be held in Fairbanks July 26-27-28.

A bright future for Native American athletics is symbolized by Billy Mills, a Dakota-Oglala Sioux, who made sports history in the 1964 Olympics. In one of the greatest upsets in world sports, Mills was accidentally pushed by another runner and fell twenty yards behind. Then in an incredible all-out effort, Mills reclosed the distance between himself and the lead runner to win a surprise victory and set a new world record.

Morris Thompson, Area Director for Alaska's Bureau of Indian Affairs, has invited Mills to attend this year's World Eskimo-Indian Olympics. Mills, was recently appointed to head a brand new department of the BIA whose purpose is to develop and encourage participation in athletics by native youths.

The national BIA Office for

Recreation, Physical Education, and Athletics was created about seven months ago and the former Indian athlete and Olympics star was a natural choice to head it. Based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mills' office said every effort would be made to rearrange schedules in order that Mills could attend the Fairbanks Olympics.

"The World Eskimo-Indian Olympics represents the kind of

(Continued on page 6)

Our Best Olympians Slated

(Continued from page 1)

activity Billy Mills hopes to encourage for native youths all over the country," said Matt Wacondo of Mills staff.

If Mills is unable to make the Olympics, there is a possibility that he may tour Alaska at a later date, visiting schools and talking with Native students. Wacondo said there might also be a possibility of taking several of Alaska's top Olympics athletes on a tour of the lower '48 schools.

The 1973 "Northern" Olympics may well create another kind of super-star. Craig Tannis, chief talent coordinator for the

Johnny Carson Show, called Tundra Times this week to discuss arrangements to have two or more competitors from the Olympics appear on the famous talk show.

Last year, high-kick and knuckle hop champion Roger Kunayak from Little Diomed Island traveled to New York as a guest of the "To Tell The Truth" show. Roger was also interviewed by the Johnny Carson staff but left New York before final arrangements could be made for him to appear with the witty host of the late, late hours.

This year, Carson's talent coordinator and Frank Murphy of the Tundra Times staff have tentatively set July 30 as the date for Alaskan Natives athletes to demonstrate for millions of TV viewers the excitement of village games and feats of strength.

The 1973 Olympics will inaugurate a new event, the Race of the Torch, a four mile running event. The winner of the race will carry the torch into Patty Gymnasium, site of the games, and from the fire of the torch, an Eskimo and an Indian woman will light the Olympic's lamps which will burn for the duration of the games.

Word is pouring in from villages all over the state, telling of contestants and dance teams who will attend the Olympics. The event is being publicized on radio stations in all the major cities of Alaska, including Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, and Barrow, and stories are being sent out to national wire services.

Two events for women have been added to this year's program, a Mukluk Sewing Contest and a Beadwork Contest. At the beginning of the games, two

Eskimo women will be given the complete materials for constructing a pair of mukluks.

Timekeepers will oversee the work as they proceed to make footwear while the games are in progress. At the same time, two Indian women will begin a beadwork project. In native craftsmanship, both speed and quality of work will count in the judging.

If you have trouble making a native woman smile these days, it may be because they are practicing up for the Women's Laughing Contest. In this crowd favorite, one team of women attempts to make the other team laugh by whatever outlandish means, funny faces, or antics will do the trick. The first side to break down and laugh loses.

As contestants sign up, the Olympics Committee is still frantically searching for a walrus skin blanket for the nalukatuk or "blanket toss" event. Anyone who knows where a blanket can be found, rented, loaned, or bought, please contact the committee.

Donations of smoked fish and mukluk are also needed, announced Chris Anderson, Olympics chairman.