

Gala Olympics In Progress

Hundreds of native people have converged to Fairbanks for the 1968 World Eskimo Olympics. The colorful annual event went underway yesterday at 8:00 p.m. at Seward Hall, the gold domed structure on the grounds of the Alaskaland.

The gala affair went underway with the march of the performers with the background of the beating of the Eskimo and Indian drums accompanied by chants of the marchers.

The march launched many colorful and interesting events

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in the three-day Olympics.

The events include Eskimo hi-kick, knuckle hop, Indian-stick pull, Eskimo and Indian dance contests, Eskimo seal skinning contests, nalukatuk (blanket toss), native queen contest, and many other events.

Olympics Queen Leora Kenick of Nome, will reign over the festivities for the first two days when on Saturday, she will crown her successor, the Eskimo Olympics Queen of 1968.

There are strong indications that the newly elected queen will also take part in next year's Miss (Indian) America Pageant of the All American Indian Days at Sheridan, Wyoming.

Contestants from Fort Smith, Inuvik, N.W.T., are also attending this year. Time-Life and National Geographic photographers are on hand to take pictures of the colorful native performers.

Roy Disney, son of the late and famous Walt Disney is on hand to see the exciting program. Gov. Tim Babcock of

Montana will be here and Mayor of Calgary and his party are to be here.

Major politicians are also on hand to meet and view the performers. Mike Gravel yesterday was being escorted by Ralph Perdue in the Olympics area and other politicians were evident.

The annual Eskimo Olympics is a unique spectacle where unusual sights and scenes are viewed by crowds of people.