

Coaches Men Basketballers—

Indian Lady Basketball Coach Loves Winning

The manager of one of Southeast Alaska's toughest men's basketball teams is a woman, Mrs. Diann L. Nelson of Juneau.

Mrs. Nelson heads the two year old Alaskan Native Sisterhood team, making her the only woman manager of a men's team in the state.

The men compete against an Alaskan Native Brotherhood team in Juneau as well as teams from Barrow, Hoonah, Angoon, Haines, Petersburg, Skagway and Wrangell. They will compete with Sitka and Kotzebue at the Fur Rendezvous in Anchorage this week.

Diann Nelson headed the Alaska Native Sisterhood fund drive in 1969 which made the team possible. Shortly after, the Sisterhood team won the Southeast Alaska Gold Medal Tournament in the B bracket their first year out, beating teams who had been together as long as 20 years.

The players sometimes are called "sisties" or "sissies" due to their sponsorship by the sisterhood and woman manager, but Mrs. Nelson thinks this may make them more aggressive. She herself says some of her male counterparts find her "overbear-

ing" and "too aggressive" for a woman.

Mrs. Nelson, who is half-Haida, claims she has Southeast Alaska's three fastest guards as the core of her team. Willie Peiatai, Kenny Ceasar and Gordon "Judo" Jackson have all played college ball.

Outside basketball, Mrs. Nelson is an administrative assistant to Rep. Gene Miller, D-Fairbanks, majority leader of the State House of Representatives. She is the wife of Carl Nelson,

president of the Juneau camp of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

Her husband is a data processor for the State Department of Administration, Chairman of the local Tlingit-Haida Community Council and was one of the first two natives elected to the Juneau City Council in 1969.

Mrs. Nelson graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School and attended Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas.