

Olympics see more records broken

Joshua Okpik set a new record for the ear weight carry, a unified and exciting Point Hope Dance group took first place in Eskimo dancing, knocking off the powerhouse Barrow dancers for the first time in almost 20 years, and a woman competed in the knuckle hop for the first time, all at the 1982 World Eskimo Olympics held in Fairbanks last weekend.

Paula Vivian White was selected Miss World Eskimo Indian Olympics with Jo Ann Benally, representing the White Mountain Apache Tribe in Arizona named first runner-up and Rose Abraham, Miss Cook Inlet Native Association named second runner-up.

The 21st annual Eskimo Olympics were held in sweltering conditions in the Patty Gymnasium on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus.

Records were set in the ear weight carry competition when Joshua Okpik of Barrow broke his record of 1,900 feet and carried the 16 pounds of lead almost half a mile

2,328 feet.

Reggie Joule, the popular and perpetual Olympics champion and this year's WEO president, took championship honors in nulkatuk again this year but was almost bested by another crowd favorite, Ernest Simuk Ekowana, an 11-year-old boy from Pt. Barrow.

Elizabeth Koutchak of Anchorage became the first woman to compete in the WEO knuckle hop competition and she was awarded a gold medal for her five-foot hop across the gym floor.

Joule received the Howard Rock Award for Best Athlete for his competition in many of the Olympic games and Greg Nothstine from Anchorage was selected to receive the Bud Hagberg Trophy for Good Sportsmanship.

For complete Olympic stories and photo coverage, see the special Tundra Times World Eskimo Olympics issue which will be published on Aug. 11.