

W.E.I.O. athletes to travel to Smithsonian

Although it is still not known exactly who will get to show off their Eskimo-Indian Olympic abilities at the Smithsonian Institution's Festival of American Folklife next month, John Heffle reports that it is hoped that about 15 medalists in this year's games will be able to make the trip.

Heffle, chairman of the 1976 World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, said that he met late last week with Margy Johnson of the Alaska Federation of Natives. AFN has a contract through the Smithsonian to provide transportation, food and lodging for the olympians. The problem is the cost of getting them all to and from their villages to Fairbanks.

Hoping that some of the native regional corporations might help defray those expenses, Heffle and Johnson are talking to corporation officials

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this week and next.

This year's outstanding athlete and winner of the first Howard Rock Memorial Trophy, Reggie Joule of Kotzebue, has decided to go in spite of his walking cast. A first place in the Men's Blanket Toss also earned him a broken leg on the second night of the games, held Aug.

29 through 31. Joule will act as moderator during the exhibition, explaining the games and the skills involved.

Accompanying the group will be "male chaperone" Heffle, and Margy Johnson. The group is scheduled to leave Fairbanks Sept. 1 and will be in Washington until Sept. 7.