

Olympics Excitement Mounts—

New Games to Be Introduced, Records May Fall

Excitement is mounting in Fairbanks as plans for the 1972 World Eskimo Olympics take shape. New games and contests have been added to this year's program, scheduled for July 27, 28, and 29 at the University of Alaska's Patty gymnasium.

The twelve year old classic is based on ancient games and contests which took place long ago in the villages of Alaska. Sponsored by the Tundra Times, the World Eskimo Olympics have grown in popularity all over the

state and throughout the world. Performance records could easily be broken in this year's Olympics. On 4th of July games in Kotzebue earlier this month, Reggie Joule of that city high kicked with both feet up to seven feet.

This performance equaled the Eskimo Olympics record in that category.

The lighting of the Olympic seal oil lamps will initiate the activities at 7:00 P. M. each evening for the three day event.

Admission to the games is three dollars for adults, two dollars for children.

Tests of strength and endurance, such as the knuckle hop, high kick, ear pull, blanket toss, ear weight, arm pull, four man carry, Indian stick pull, and others are combined with exhibitions of Native dancing, seal skinning, fish cutting, a muk-tuk eating contest, a Native baby contest, and the selection of a queen to reign over the festivities.

Villagers from all over the state will take part in the competition. Tom Drake, chairman of the 1972 Eskimo Olympics, mentioned a few of the places who will be sending contestants: King Island, Anchorage Urban Natives, Barrow, Kotzebue, Inuvik, Canada, Tanana, Ft. Yukon, and many others.

Co-chairman for the event is Charlie Moses of Fairbanks. The queen contest is under the supervision of Betty Johnson, and is still open for Native girls of one quarter heritage, 17 to 21 years old, and single. The Miss Eskimo Olympics contestants will compete in Native costumes.

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The popular Native Baby contest also requires that the baby and mother be in full Native dress.

One of the new events this year will be the fish cutting contest watched over by Mabel Peterson, who is originally from Barrow.

"Drop The Bomb" is the name of a new game in which four men hold a contestant spreadeagle by his feet and hands. As he maintains a rigid position, they lift him and walk with him, as long as he is able to stay

rigid, or until he collapses and "drops the bomb".

The Queen contestants will model their costumes at a fashion show at Travelers Inn on Saturday, July 29 at 12:00, and will have several other activities planned for them during the three days.

As it shapes up at this point, the 1972 World Eskimo Olympics promises to be the biggest and best yet, with capacity crowds at every performance. Tickets can be purchased at the gates of the Patty gymnasium.