Inuvik Boys Always Practice

Billy Killbear of Pt. Barrow hopes to give a team from Inuvik "a good competition" when his team of Alaskans participates in the Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse during the second week in March.

But, he said, "Those boys from Inuvik practice all the time, so we might have a rough time with them."

Killbear pointed out, however, that the purpose of the competition was not to win or lose but to demonstrate native sports for "people who haven't seen the games."

Killbear also hopes to introduce some new games at the Winter Games. Members of his team will get together and "think of some games I don't think they can do and we'll introduce them to them" he said.

Members of the team from Alaska include Killbear, Louis Pauken from St. Marys, Roger Kunayak from King Island, Joe Kasak from Barrow, Leland Leavitt from Barrow, John Harry Okomiluk from Barrow, and, if he is able to attend, Kotzebue Democratic Sen. Willie Hensley.

Killbear said he will also select an alternate to be on the team in case Hensley is unable to be in Whitehorse at that time.

"We will introduce some new games with John Harry," Killbear said. "We want him along because he can do the impossible." One of the new games will be a duck walk. "You balance yourself on your hands and your stomach," Killbear said, "and you lift your feet off the ground and walk with your hands."

As soon as Louis Pauken and Roger Kunayak return from their vacations from the Univer sity of Alaska, Killbear said, "we'll start practicing. We'll go over and over until we perfect the games we're going to play down there."

According to Killbear, this is the first time an Alaskan team has gone to Whitehorse for the Arctic Winter Games.