

WEI Olympics get under way Thursday

They're here at long last.

About 400 nervous, excited athletes, dancers and story tellers, craftsmen and women and others will be lining up Thursday for the opening ceremonies for the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics to be held in Fairbanks Friday through Saturday.

This year's events gets under way at 7 p.m. July 30 (Thursday) with the traditional race of the torch and the lighting of the Olympic seal oil lamp by Poldine Carlo and Pauline Bueina.

The event is again being held at the Patty Gymnasium at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Events during the three-day Olympics include tests of strength and muscular development in competitions such as the one- and two-foot high kick, stick pull and knuckle hop, ear pull and four-man carry.

Events testing skills include the sewing competition and skin-

ning contests.

Babies and young women will get a chance to show off their grace, appearance and knowledge of their Native culture in their respective Native baby contest and Miss WEIO Competition. Sixteen women are entered in the Miss WEIO contest.

Doors at the Patty Gymnasium open at 12:30 p.m. daily for the afternoon competition on Friday and Saturday and at 6 p.m. nightly. Games begin at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively.

Tickets are \$8 per night for adults and \$5 nightly for children. Season tickets are \$15.

