

The Eve of Olympics

Excitement and Confusion Mount

Planes are arriving. Skin drums are unwrapped. Fur parkas are pulled out of storage. An ivory crown is dusted and polished. The torch is lit, and the 1973 Eskimo-Indian Olympics begins.

Attracting spectators and photographers from all over the world, the 1973 competition will be bigger and better than ever. A writer-photographer team from National Geographic Magazine will cover the games and they will also be videotaped live by several networks in Fairbanks.

Chris Anderson, Olympics Chairman, is asking Native people, spectators, as well as contestants to proudly wear their native costumes to the '73 games. With summer temperatures soaring in Fairbanks, fur parkas, moose-hide jackets, intricately beaded leather dresses, and knee-high mukluks will cause heads to turn in downtown Fairbanks.

Some of the events on the agenda: a beaver skinning contest, the traditional blanket toss, the greased pole walk, a muktuk eating contest, and colorful and authentic native dance competitions. And while all this is going on, native women from all over the state, will race against the clock in a new, skin sewing contest, to see who can be the first to finish

a complete pair of mukluks!

Festivities begin on Thursday, July 26 at 6:30 with the exciting Race of the Torch — followed by the traditional lighting of the Olympic lamps. For the next two days, one breath-taking event will follow another in rapid succession, until the top Eskimo and Indian athletes are chosen, and a beautiful queen is crowned.

Some new highlights this year will include: a special award to the athlete chosen by the judges who best represents the spirit of the Olympics. Since new parkas have been designed for the re-named Olympics, the traditional jackets will be awarded to outstanding competitors. There will be a Native Arts and Crafts Fair in the Lobby featuring an original silk screened commemorative 1973 poster. For the first time, refreshments will be served: hot dogs, soda pop, and muktuk!

Queen contestants who arrived in Fairbanks a week before the Olympics, graced a float in the Golden Days Parade. The queens received royal treatment in the week leading up to the festivities. Olympics queens of years previous have traveled all over America as representatives of the native peoples of Alaska. Helen Andon, last year's queen, was invited to a breakfast with

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ON EVE OF OLYMPICS . . .

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the President of the United States in Washington D. C.

Billy Mills, outstanding Indian athlete who starred in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics may be unable to attend the Alaskan Native Olympics as planned, due to illness, but he has pledged his support for future games. Matt Wacondo, Mills' assistant in the newly created Bureau of Indian Affairs for Recreation, Physical Education and Athletics will attend in Mill's place.

Each day of the Olympics

will feature a different series of events, but Olympics fans can purchase seasons tickets for all three nights in advance. These seasons passes are \$10 for adults and \$4 for children. Single performance tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Seasons passes may be purchased at Wood Center, Alaska House, Borealis Book Store and through the Tundra Times. Single evening tickets are available at the door of the Patty Gym each night.

WORLD ESKIMO INDIAN OLYMPICS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, July 26

Race of the Torch begins at 6:30; games begin at 7:00

Lighting of the Lamps

Marching of All Contestants

Native Sewing Contest

Two Foot High Kick (first round)

Fish Cutting Contest

Greased Pole Walk

Introduction of the Queens

Indian and Eskimo Dance Competition

One Foot High Kick (first round)

Women's Blanket Toss (Nalukatuk)

White Man vs. Native Women Tug-O-War

Friday, July 27

Games begin at 7:00; doors open at 6:00

Lighting of the Lamps

Native Sewing Contest

Indian and Eskimo Dance Competition

Two Foot High Kick (second round)

Ear Pulling Contest

Interview of the Queen Contestants (Judging)

Indian Rope Game

Men's Blanket Toss

Indian Leg Wrestling

Seal Skinning Contest

One Foot High Kick (second round)

Coronation of the Queen

Muktuk Eating Contest

Saturday, July 28

Games begin at 7:00; doors open at 6:00

Lighting of the Lamps

Introduction of Queen and Court

Marching of All Contestants

Native Sewing Contest

Knuckle Hop Contest

Native Baby Contest

Indian Stick Pull

Beaver Skinning

Indian and Eskimo Dance Competition

Drop the Bomb