

ULU NEWS



Arctic
Winter
Games



A special publication of Fort McMurray Today

March 5, 2004



HAVE A SEAT — Lisa Do of Team N.W.T. executes a sit spin during the team competition event at the C.A. Knight Recreation Centre on Thursday evening.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

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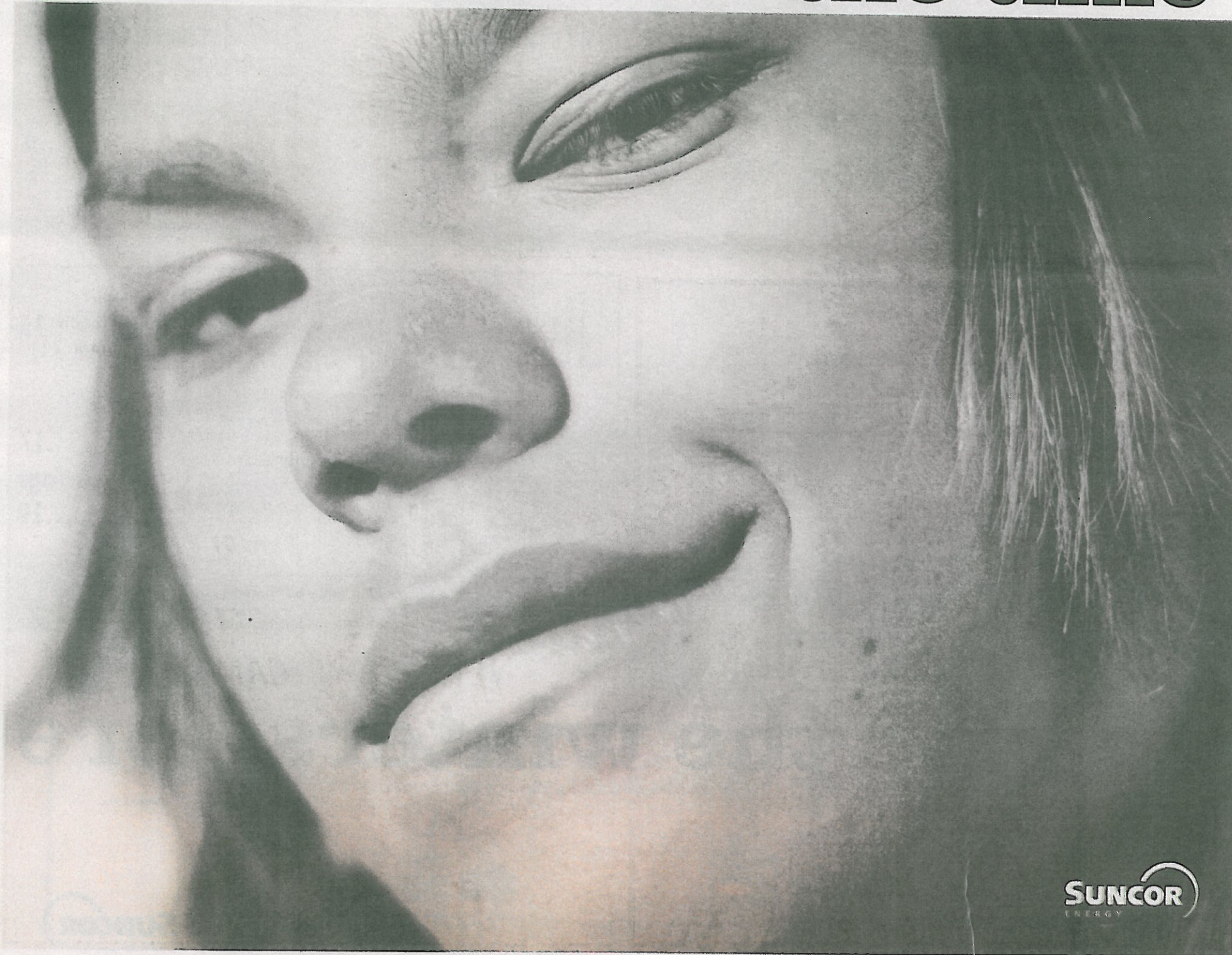
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Correction

In the March 3rd edition of Ulu News, a gymnast was incorrectly identified as Team Yukon's Gina Sparling. In fact, the photo was of Sparling's teammate Sierra Palamar. Ulu News regrets the error.

GOING TO THE DOGS — Denis Nerysoo of Team N.W.T. races along the final stretch Thursday morning at the 10-kilometre juvenile dog mushing event.
 Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News



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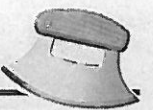
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AERODYNAMIC

— Using every bit of advantage he can get, Pierre-Olivier Bedard of Team Yukon propelled himself off the line at the start of the junior boy's cross-country relay race Thursday at the Arctic Winter Games.

Photo by
CARL PATZEL,
Ulu News

N.W.T. digs deep for volleyball match against Alaska

By JEFF KORENKO
Ulu News

Heading into a Thursday match with powerhouse Alaska, the N.W.T. female volleyball team was faced with two alternatives — accept the fact they were going to lose and mail it in, or display some character and make the Americans work for their fourth win of these Arctic Winter Games.

In coming up with their most solid performance of the week, the classy court contingent clearly chose the latter, yet were simply overmatched by the Alaskans in a three-set loss at Westwood Community high school.

While Alaska was expected to decimate the smaller N.W.T. side with

their height, the Territories forced them to beat them in a rather unexpected way — with smarts and finesse at the net.

Combining power and savvy, the Alaskan ladies moved to 4-0 with a hard-fought 25-9, 25-20, 25-0 decision on Court 2.

The expected victory moved them into a first-place tie with host Alberta North going into a showdown between the gold ulu contenders Thursday night.

The N.W.T.'s setback meanwhile, was their third in four attempts. They would need to down the Yukon decisively later in the day to have any hope of a shot at the playoffs.

Please see
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Territories grab brief lead

Cont'd from Page 4.
Nonetheless, coach Jeannie Mathison was still impressed with the gump-tion her team showed Thursday and agreed it likely would have taken a perfect game to slay the Alaskan giants.

"The girls have consistently gotten better as the tournament has gone on," she noted. "Initially, it was all nerves for them and there is nothing to lose out here now and they know it and are starting to play their game."

"We missed a couple serves and they started tipping a bit on us and we weren't ready," she said. "We were looking for the big hit every time and we just have to learn to be on our toes a little more and anticipate other things."

After the Territories grabbed a brief and narrow lead in the opening set, they became plagued once again by a stretch in which they had difficulty

executing that crucial first pass, as Alaska began to dominate in the middle.

Towering hitter Cristal Negrón keyed an offensive outburst by the Americans that saw them strike for eight straight points to take a 9-4 lead and never look back en route to a 25-9 verdict.

They had much more difficulty with a collected and communicative Northwest Territories' defence in the second and third sets, however, as the N.W.T. would not go away quietly.

Despite trailing by as many as six points early on, the Territories, paced by some imaginative setting by Breanne Grayston, persevered to make things interesting, and the teams found themselves tied at 17 at one stage, only to have the Alaskans score eight of the next 11 points to take the set.


Leading 20-18, Alaska got a crucial point from

17-year-old Madeline Thomas, who managed to find a rare opening in the N.W.T. defence by putting the ball to the back right corner of the court to end an extended rally and give the Alaskans a three-point cushion.

Tentative serving from both sides to start the third kept the score going back and forth early, until the N.W.T. pulled ahead by going on a 5-1 run to stake themselves to a 7-3 lead.

They led as deep into the set as 18-17, as hitters Candace Bradbury and Rachel Maclean continued to give Alaska fits with their creativity above the net.

However, a service ace by Negrón that just skimmed the top of the mesh and tricked the N.W.T. formation drew the Americans even at 18 and they never looked back.

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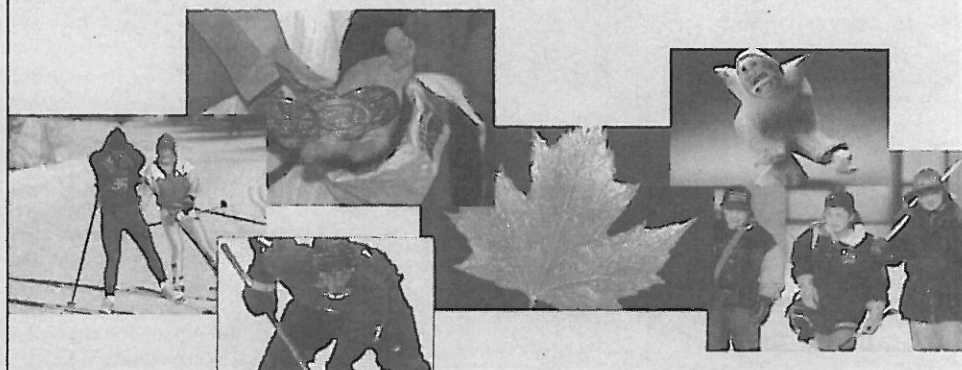
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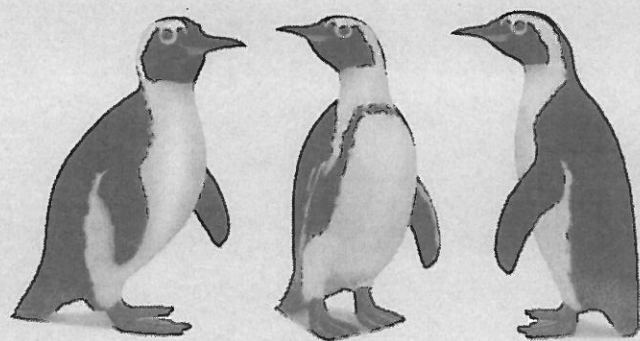
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Winter Games pin-trading: the 21st sport

By MAX MAUDIE
Ulu News

With people of all ages in the hunt, pins are all the rage at the Arctic Winter Games.

Carrying a blue cloth with over 50 pins on it Wednesday morning at the C.A. Knight Recreation Centre, 13-year-old Alaskan Robert Smith barter for pins with a Games volunteer.

"I got (these) already," he says to his bartering partner.

Robert's cloth is covered in his doubles — the ones he'll trade. His prized lot,

Considered by many to be the 21st sport, pin trading participants come in all ages and all nationalities. Be on the look out for those seeking to swap, buy or barter for unique pins from the 2004 Games, as well as from those in the past.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE,
Ulu News



in the hundreds, he keeps safely stashed.

According to Robert, the Greenland set is the toughest to find.

"I haven't found one yet. But I'll keep trying," he says, determined.

Some pins join to make figures of flags or cultural artifacts. Most stand alone.

Over at the concession, one of the girls behind the counter offers a customer a free coffee for a pin she pines after.

"Not interested," he shoots back with a grin.

Marty Brown mans a table in the centre for CBC North.

"I thought the whole thing was quite bizarre," she said. "I never thought I'd get caught up in it, but here I am."

Her ID strap, covered with pins, lures people as they walk by. Young and old, some stop and talk pins with her.

Asked how she splits her time between her

duties and her pins, she laughs and says the pin peddlers identify her.

"If (they see your pins), it's not hard," she says with a laugh.

Pin collecting is all about fun, after all. But it seems the kids have the upper hand here. Many collectors seem unable to say no to a trade offered by a cute kid.

Brown speaks highly of one girl in particular. The girl runs up to Brown seconds later. It seems she has just found the bottom half of a two-piece set. Many have the top, gold half of the Nunavut pin. The bottom, blue half is a rarity. What will they trade for it?

"Nothing! He's not trading anything," says nine-year-old Christine Cook.

Christine, who will be 10 at "five o'clock this afternoon," collects pins for the fun of it.

"You get souvenirs, I've got a whole bunch," she beams.

Moments later, there's a clamour at a door near the indoor soccer field. It seems one pin collector was trying to get out to make a deal with another pin collector.

Games volunteer Tony Chin was the man at the door between the two pinners.

"This pin thing is interfering with work," he chuckles as he opens the door.

He adds that it is all good fun, this pin craze.

He wears one pin, a Canadian flag. He kids that pin covers everything.

Coincidence has it that the two pinners making a deal are Robert and Christine. Christine is still after the blue half of the Nunavut pin.

Did she make the deal after all?

Nope.

"She didn't have anything I wanted," says Robert, all business.

If only he knew it was her birthday at five o'clock.

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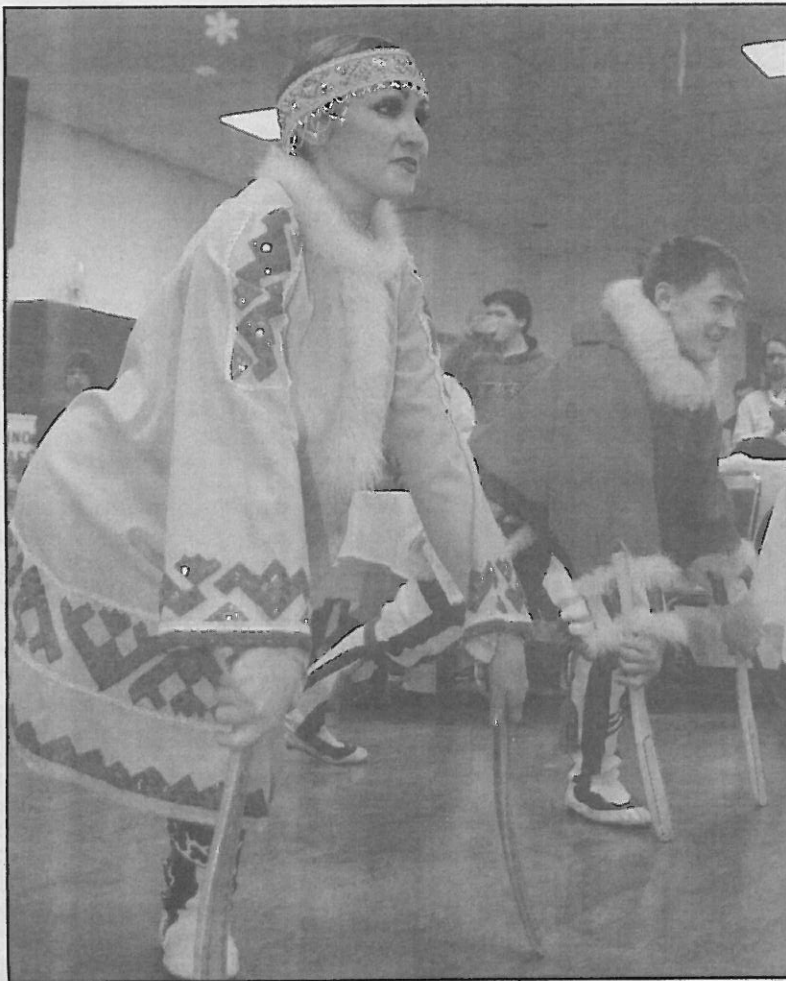
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ALL IN FUN
 — Team Yamal's Oleg Rolev, left, and Vladislav Ozelov perform a skit as part of their cultural showcase at Kaskwasowin on the upper level of C.A. Knight Recreation Centre on MacDonald Island on Thursday afternoon. The pair are part of the cultural contingent from Yamal.
 Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

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Yukon shuts out soccer Albertans

By JEFF KORENKO
Ulu News

Ho hum.
Not.

If the Yukon felt their last round-robin game of the Arctic Winter Games junior male soccer tournament was a meaningless one, they sure didn't play like it.

Sealing off Alberta North's offence with an airtight defensive display, the Yukon racked up its sixth consecutive victory of the week by shutting out the Albertans 3-0 at the Henry Conroy Mini Drome on Thursday night.

Coming into the game, the Yukon had already wrapped up a spot in today's semi-final, while Alberta North, at one win, two losses and a tie, was out of the playoff picture.

The speedy Boris Hoefs scored for the territory in the first half, while Paul Fraughton added an

insurance marker in the second.

With nothing to lose or gain, the Yukon simply went out and played their game in a loose style, noted coach Peter Mather.

"It's hard to get up for a game when your position has already been determined, but the kids played well," said Mather.

"They pushed the ball around, they had some fun and made some nice plays. It's good to win and keep that roll going, but now we have to refocus and get ready for a big game against a really good team today."

The Yukon allowed Northern Alberta to have merely four inconsequential shots at their netminder Jared Eeles, while directing 11 at Alberta North 'keeper Kyle Robinson.

"We came out and gave our best and did what we could," said Fort

McMurray's Tony Brown, 15.

"They are very good. They know what they are doing because they are so well coached and it shows," said Brown.

Nine minutes into the contest, the Klondikers got the only tally they would require when Nick Locke fed Hoefs streaking down the left side.

Hoefs made no mistake on the short side and the Yukon was able to coast from there.

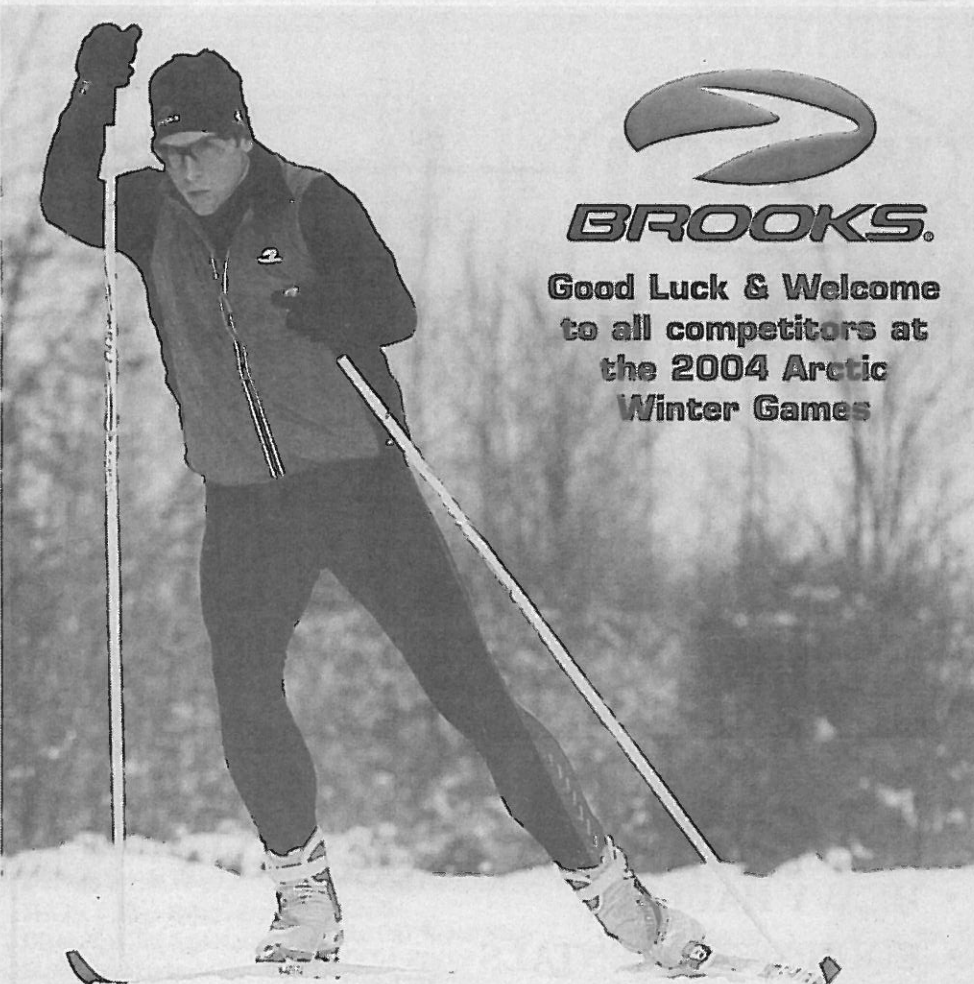
Just three minutes into the second, Hoefs was this time the setup man, as he found Fraughton lurking to Robinson's right.

A couple of dribbles and a blast high short side put the game out of reach.

The Yukon has surrendered only three goals thus far in its six games, also shutting out Nunavut and Greenland.



MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT DRUM — Alex Gordon of Team N.W.T. shows off his talents as a polar bear during one of the many traditional songs and dances performed by the N.W.T. cultural contingent Thursday afternoon at the Peter Pond Shopping Centre. Photo by Tamarra Price, Ulu News



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Olympian inspires Gamers

By RICHARD WRIGHT
Ulu News

Calgary's Kelly Bechard knows a thing or two about Northern Alberta sporting forums.

The 2002 Olympic gold medalist with Canada's National Women's Hockey Team was discovered while playing for Alberta at the 1995 Canada Winter Games in Grande Prairie.

These days her hockey time is spent between the national program and Calgary's Oval Extreme of the National Women's Hockey League. And while that may keep her busy, it wasn't enough for her to miss the chance to get back to the north and serve as inspiration for the hundreds of young amateur athletes at the Arctic Winter Games.

Bechard arrived in Fort McMurray Thursday for a tour of the community and its Games' facilities and

will spend most of today signing autographs.

Her message here is obvious, if not explicitly expressed. There are a lot of hopefuls at these Games — youngsters with dreams of making the same strides from the same humble beginnings as she did.

"If you want to be an athlete, or what ever it may be, it is not always going to be smooth sailing," said the 26-year-old, who didn't make the national team until her second attempt in 2000. "It is a lot of will power. For me, it wasn't always easy. The first time I tried out I was told I needed to be a stronger skater so I went out and worked on my skating."

Bechard can completely relate to the excitement level of the participants and coaches of these games. As a veteran of the Olympics, she has seen the best at their best.

"Being here reminds me a lot of the Canada Winter Games and the Olympics," she said, noting that the Olympic experience deserves all the hype it gets. "It was everything I dreamed of. As everyone knows we had lost eight straight to the U.S. and everyone was questioning whether we could do it. And to come together like that and develop as a team was very special."

People who meet Bechard today will have not only the opportunity to rub shoulders with a real Canadian hero, but will also be able to perhaps rub her Olympic gold medal for a little extra luck going into today's Games' action, which will mostly feature medal events. The medal, along with its owner, will be at the C.A. Knight Recreation Centre's Fan Fare from 1 to 2:30 p.m.



Spencer Bovaird, 6, goes one on one with Olympic women's hockey gold medalist Kelly Bechard at the Fan Fair venue at the C.A. Knight Recreation Centre on Thursday night. Bechard took time to play a little one on one, hand out a few pointers and show off her Olympic gold medal from the 2002 Winter Olympics.
Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News



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Merchandise selling well

By JEFF KORENKO
Ulu News

While athletes play their hearts out in the hope of garnering the most-coveted item involved with these Arctic Winter Games — the ulu — visitors to the region and residents alike have been gobbling up their own keepsakes as a reminder of what has transpired here this week.

Whether it be a jacket, tuque, shirt, pin, Buddy beanie or knapsack, people around town seem not be able to have enough of the Games merchandise available.

That has kept sales brisk at both the Arctic Games Gear outlet in the Peter Pond shopping centre and the various kiosks at venues throughout

the city, Games merchandising co-ordinator

Sherry Newhook said Thursday.

"We had a slow morning but then things skyrocketed for the afternoon and it's just going crazy right now," Newhook proclaimed as customers were flooding the Arctic Games Gear store.

Sports-specific apparel — especially in Dene games, hockey, soccer and volleyball — have been selling like hotcakes, she said.

"Vests have gone really well, as have all the pins," Newhook added.

A glance just outside the store at where the pins were being sold yielded customers surrounding the table.

All the pins with

the words "Arctic Winter Games 2004, Fort McMurray" were sold out by Wednesday and kids were now looking to buy the sport-specific Buddy pins.

"Overall, we're getting mostly athletes and their families into the store, but Fort McMurray people are still buying merchandise.

"Everything is getting down to a minimum," Newhook said.

Merchandise sales for the 18th edition of the Arctic Winter Games have already surpassed that of any games before it, she noted.

Games organizers had projected sales to top out at \$750,000 and Newhook added that "we are about three-quarters of the way there."

BENDING OVER BACKWARDS — Team Yukon dancers from the Whitehorse Northern Lights School of Dance perform one of their modern dance numbers Thursday afternoon at the Peter Pond shopping centre.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE,
Ulu News

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ANTHEMIC — Fort McMurray resident Rebecca Kirschner, 12, serenades fans, spectators and 13 groups of athletes receiving ulus at the opening of the Wednesday night ulu presentations at Atco Plaza. The young performer sang O Canada at the plaza, then moved on to sing the Canadian anthem at the evening basketball game at Father Mercredi high school. Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

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Photograph by Caline Ardrouid

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SOUNDS OF NATURE — Mary Nibgoarsi, left, and Walla Kuksuk of Team Nunavut perform throat songs that imitate the sounds of nature during the Nunavut's cultural contingent performance at Long term Care in the Northern Lights Regional Hospital Thursday afternoon. The group of nine singers and drummers, along with their director, will be performing again Friday at 11 a.m. at Peter Pond shopping centre.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

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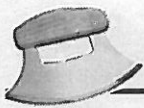


Figure skaters learn lessons of hard work, perseverance

By MAX MAUDIE
Ulu News

Salchows, spins and Axels were out in full force Thursday to wrap up the Arctic Games figure skating events.

The women's team event saw teams go head to head in a battle of the blades.

Going into the event, Alberta's ladies had won 15 medals and Yukon's ladies had won 17. Alaska had found four, and the Northwest Territories had but one.

The week had turned into quite a battle but no blood had been let at the hands of irate or unsportsmanlike skaters. Coaches from Alberta and the Yukon spoke highly of the sportsmanship on all the teams.

But the final medal was yet to be determined.

Each team picked a skater to compete in an event: The toe loop, the Axel, the double Salchow, the two-jump combo, spins, and the footwork sequence.

It was close, but the Yukon iced it, taking gold.

"We were pleased ... we have a fairly strong team," said Yukon coach Trish Pettitt. "The girls set their goals and came through."

She added she was impressed with the sportsmanship and team spirit displayed by all teams.

Alberta co-coach Lynn MacDonald was happy with the silver medal performance of her team.

"The kids had a blast," she said. "(It's) all about team spirit. It was a nice way to finish two days of more stressful competition."

Macdonald said the performance of 10-year-

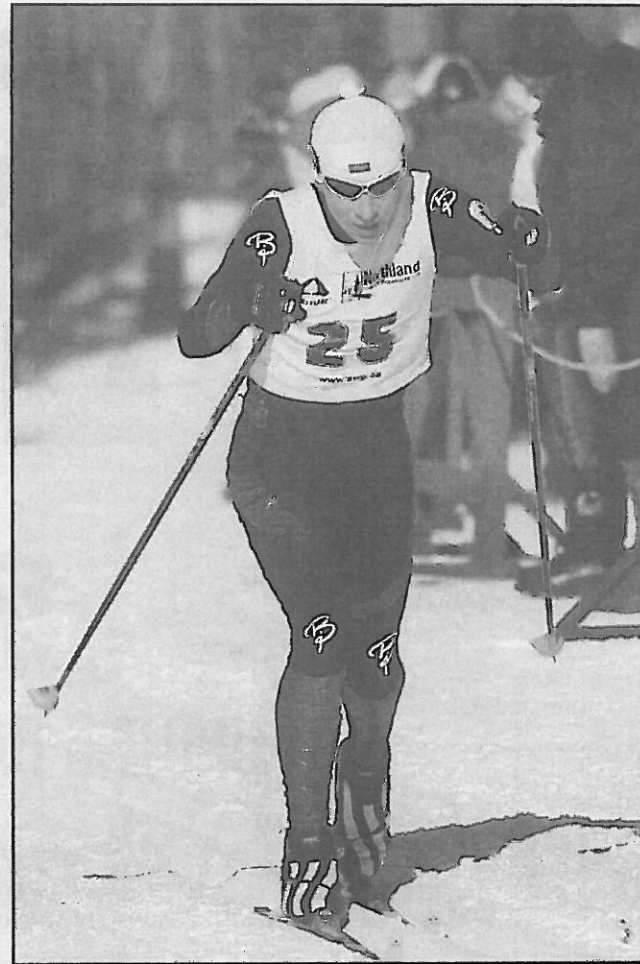
old Ashley Blackmore stood out in her mind as most memorable. Blackmore didn't have a great short competition in the ladies combined, she finished last. But she turned it around to finish first in the long portion of the combined event to take bronze.

"My coaches and my friends really encouraged me to forget about (my bad skate)," Blackmore said. "It felt really good (to turn it around like that.) I really surprised myself."

Blackmore said she learned to keep going in the face of adversity and not give up, no matter what.

Pettitt said her girls learned similar lessons.

"(They learned) they still can compete even if they're tired. They can push through it. It's a long week for them."



SPRINT TO THE FINISH — Yamal-Nenets racer Bogdan Pauk leads the pack during the junior boys 3-5km relay race at Birchwood Trails. The cross-country skiers had blue skies and cool temperatures to race in for the Arctic Winter Games competition.

Photo by CARL PATZEL, Ulu News



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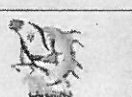
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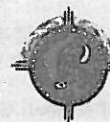


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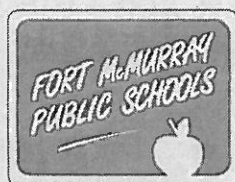
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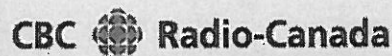
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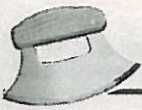
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Alberta tops in gymnastics

Team takes 13 of 15 individual women's medals

By MAX MAUDIE
Ulu News

It was domination. How better to describe team Alberta taking 13 of 15 available medals Thursday in the women's individual event?

Fresh from a day off, the young ladies pulled out all the stops at the Norfort Gymnastics Club. They bounced and flipped away any jitters and kicked some flippin' butts.

Tuesday, they took gold in the team event.

Coach Sandy Boisvert said all was not so golden going into the event. She gave the girls the day off Wednesday.

"All the other teams were training yesterday ... the girls went to the movies," she said.

It seems the rest paid dividends. Boisvert spent Wednesday helping the

other coaches run their teams through practices.

For that she won a fair-play pin, something she is very proud of.

Kira Mullally gave spirited performances, her brow furled with intensity. She fell once from the four-inch-wide balance beam, but was up in a flash and nailed her landing on her way to gold and silver ulu.

"I feel better, there's no pressure anymore," she said after the medals were awarded.

"(The competitors) were really nice," she added.

Seconds after Kira stuck her landing, Megan Albinati flew from the horizontal bars with the grace of a spider monkey. Coach looked pleased as Megan stabbed her landing.

Megan took home three gold and one silver ulu,

including the coveted golden all-around gymnast ulu.

"I wasn't expecting it, I was surprised," she said. "I don't have to worry about anything (now)."

Brittany Ekstedt's floor routine was accompanied by a spirited little drum n' bass number. She strung together flips and flew through the air like a shuttle on a night flight to Venus.

"It feels really good to get this many medals," she said of her single silver and two bronze medals.

Danielle Alexander won two bronze, a gold and a silver ulu.

"I was pretty surprised when I got (a silver ulu) for all-around (gymnast)," she said. "I was nervous for bars."

No one else in the building seemed surprised.



SING ME A TUNE — Dag Droch of Team Sami's cultural contingent plays a little tune before the group's performance at Kaskwasowin on the upper level of C.A. Knight Recreation Centre on MacDonald Island on Wednesday afternoon.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

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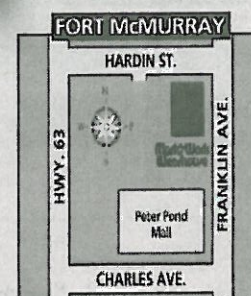
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THE SHADOWS KNOW — Despite the chill in the air, friends and fans lined up along the side of the hill at Vista Ridge to watch the snowboarding events.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

Alberta badminton player, 12, carrying on family tradition

By RICHARD WRIGHT
Ulu News

Fort McMurray badminton player Jordy Lee, 12, has seen his share of gold ulus but not until today will he have the chance to call any his own.

The Timberlea school student is living up to his family's reputation this week at the Arctic Winter Games, entering today's medal round with an undefeated record in singles, doubles and mixed play.

With any luck he will make it a clean sweep and match the achievements of his older brothers, both triple gold medal winners from past Games.

"I am really confident I can get three," said Lee following his final juvenile boy's round robin singles match Thursday at Father Patrick Mercredi high school. "It is really impor-

tant to me to keep up my brother's streak." Brothers Ivan, 25, and Sonny, 30, will be on hand to watch and cheer on their little brother as he strives for the record-setting achievement. Ivan will be coming in from Edmonton, and Sonny will be making the trip from Vancouver.

"It will be really embarrassing if I lose so I will really try hard."

The constant reminder of his brother's achievements aside, it has been a long ride to the Games for the youngest Lee. About the time Sonny was winning everything at the 1994 Games in Slave Lake, Jordy was already honing his skills. At the age of three he was well versed with a badminton racket, even if it was balloons he was hitting around instead of the common birdie.

"When I got older I

started hitting with a birdie and it's just gone on from there." But he can't explain why the game is such a big part of his family's life. "I don't really know. It's just the thing to do and you meet a lot of new friends at tournaments."

As a member of the Fort McMurray Badminton Club, he's seen a lot of tournaments over the years. The club is very active on the provincial scene and has produced a wide array of champions from within the Lee clan as well as outside it.

Members like Jordy's doubles partner Brad Kloppenburg and mixed partner Michelle Sutanto, as well as Father Merc student Vanessa Hang, a multiple-ulu winner from the 2002 Games, are also on their way to golden performances here this week.

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Medalists, Day 5

Alpine skiing — dual slalom — junior female

Gold: Lisa Turley, Alberta
Silver: Jessica Lade, Alberta
Bronze: Zoe Zimmerman, Yukon

Alpine skiing — dual slalom — junior male

Gold: Spencer Chaulk, Alberta
Silver: Christopher Ostrowski, Alberta
Bronze: Luke Mather, Alaska

Alpine skiing — dual slalom — juvenile female

Gold: Anya Zimmerman, Yukon
Silver: Stephanie Dunn, Alaska
Bronze: Katrina Schneider, Alberta

Arctic sports — sledge jump — open female

Gold: Jennifer Bell, Alberta
Silver: Elizabeth Gustafson, Alberta
Bronze: Caroline Ningiuk, Nunavik

Arctic sports — sledge jump — open male

Gold: Rodion Taligin, Yamal
Silver: Alexandr Taligin, Yamal
Bronze: Alexander Zhernakov, Yamal

Arctic sports — sledge jump — junior female

Gold: Anna Mordovina, Magadan
Silver: Lena Belenko, Magadan
Bronze: Victoria Popova, Magadan

Arctic sports — sledge jump — junior male

Gold: Boris Tyurnin, Magadan
Silver: Alan Kanukov,

Magadan
Bronze: Tonny Fisker, Greenland

Cross-country skiing — 3x5K relay — junior female

Gold: Yukon
Silver: Sami
Bronze: Alaska

Cross-country skiing — 3x5K relay — junior male

Gold: Yamal
Silver: Sami
Bronze: Alaska

Cross-country skiing — 3x5K relay — juvenile female

Gold: Sami
Silver: Yamal
Bronze: Alaska

Cross-country skiing — 3x5K relay — juvenile male

Gold: Sami
Silver: Greenland
Bronze: Yukon

Dog mushing — 10K, 5 dogs — juvenile coed

Gold: Beth Callis, Alaska
Silver: Fraser Arey, N.W.T.
Bronze: Andrei M Cavens, Alaska

Dog mushing — 13K, 7 dogs — juvenile coed

Gold: Sonya Cavens, Alaska
Silver: Aryn Charlie, N.W.T.
Bronze: Jason Baxter, N.W.T.

Gymnastics — vault — junior female

Gold: Megan Albinati, Alberta
Silver: Alex Speegle, Alaska
Bronze: Danielle Alexander, Alberta

Gymnastics — uneven bars — junior female

Gold: Megan Albinati, Alberta
Silver: Kira Mullally, Alberta
Bronze: Brittany Ekstedt, Alberta

Gymnastics — balance beam — junior female

Gold: Danielle Alexander, Alberta
Silver: Megan Albinati, Alberta
Bronze: Aletta Leitch, Yukon

Gymnastics — floor exercise — junior female

Gold: Kira Mullally, Alberta
Silver: Brittany Ekstedt, Alberta
Bronze: Danielle Alexander, Alberta

Gymnastics — all-around — junior female

Gold: Megan Albinati, Alberta
Silver: Danielle Alexander, Alberta
Bronze: Brittany Ekstedt, Alberta

Ski biathlon — 6K sprint — junior female

Gold: Amy MacDonald, N.W.T.
Silver: Julia Anufrienko,

Yamal
Bronze: Kristielyn Jones, N.W.T.

Ski biathlon — 6K sprint — junior male

Gold: Ilja Zagoruiko, Yamal
Silver: Peter Watson, Alberta
Bronze: John Van Slyke, Alberta

Snowshoe biathlon — 3K sprint — junior female

Gold: Ella Mawdsley, N.W.T.
Silver: Heidi Lovett, Heidi, Alaska
Bronze: Betsy Mawdsley, N.W.T.

Snowshoe biathlon — 3K sprint — junior male

Gold: Lloyd Wolff, Alberta
Silver: Eric Lindsey, Yukon
Bronze: Adrian Norberg, N.W.T.

Cont'd on next page.

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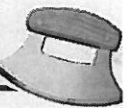
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**Speed skating — 500m
— junior female**

Gold: Jill Gilday, N.W.T.
Silver: Allison Furniss,
Yukon
Bronze: McKenzie
Bentley-Little, N.W.T.

**Speed skating — 500m
— junior male**

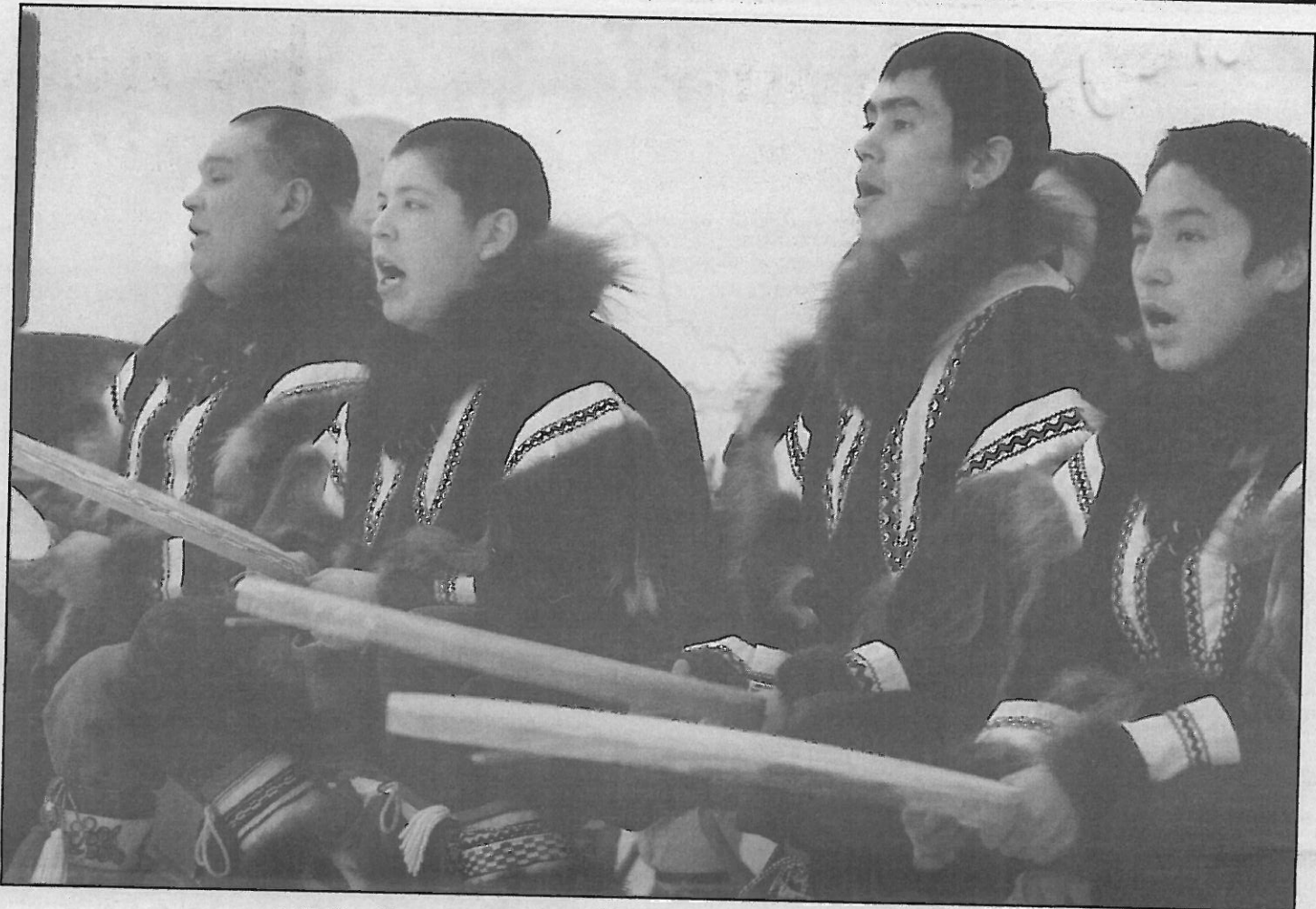
Gold: Michael Gilday,
N.W.T.
Silver: Ryan Greig,
N.W.T.
Bronze: Brett Elliot,
Yukon

**Speed skating — 500m
— juvenile female**

Gold: Stephanie
Bourgeois, N.W.T.
Silver: Marie-Christine
Auger, N.W.T.
Bronze: Bracken Burns,
Alberta

**Speed skating — 500m
— juvenile male**

Gold: Troy Henry, Yukon
Silver: Angus Smith,
N.W.T.
Bronze: Levi Commons,
Yukon

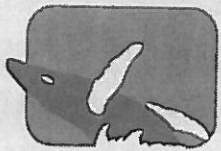


KEEPING THE BEAT — Dean Arey, Jordan McLeod, Alex Gordon and William Paul of Team N.W.T. pound out traditional songs during their cultural contingent performance Thursday afternoon at the Peter Pond shopping centre.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

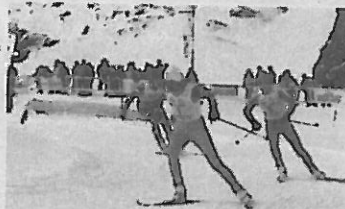
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Medal standings

	G	S	B	Tot
 Alberta	25	30	30	85
 Alaska	29	25	23	77
 Yukon	29	21	25	75
 N.W.T.	16	23	26	65
 Nunavut	5	7	12	24
 Yamal	10	6	4	20
 Magadan	7	8	5	20
 Greenland	5	5	8	18
 Sami	4	8	5	17
 Nunavik	7	3	3	13

Handing out the hardware

By MAX MAUDIE
Ulu News

Any athlete at the Arctic Winter Games can tell you what goes into winning an ulu. The standard: blood, sweat and tears.

But surely such a coveted item has a story of its own.

Ian Legaree, technical director of the International Committee for the Games, said in all there are 2,272 Ulus floating around the Games, including:

- 489 each of gold, silver and bronze for athletes;
- 166 coach ulus — pewter in colour;
- 84 cultural participant Ulus — pewter in colour;
- 95 mission staff ulus — pewter in colour;
- 100 each of gold, silver, bronze and pewter to be presented to sponsors and honoured guests;

•60 spares.

Legaree hasn't heard of any athletes losing their medals yet this week.

"We try to do our best to replace them (when it happens)," he said. "We may (yet) have one or two lost around the games."

Legaree said the committee changed the clips on the ulus to a new, more secure clip two years ago.

And, sorry, there is no actual gold or silver in the medals, said Legaree.

"They're worth about \$10 apiece," he said.

The committee buys the medals from a company in Yellowknife, who in turn has them manufactured in Ontario.

"I think it's unique," said Joe Maduke, co-owner of Lake Awry Cap and Crest. "We been doing them for a number of years. As far as I know, they are the only ones (who use the ulu design)."

The ulu, an all-purpose knife traditionally used by the Inuit people, has been the Games' symbol of success since the first Games in 1970.

Legaree said the ulu's unique shape makes it a striking symbol.

"Most medals around for competitions are typically circular," he said.

He recalls seeing many ulus won at winter games through the years.

"There are individuals across the Arctic and the North going back years ... I see them all over the North," he said. "I traveled to Alaska, to the Yukon, and I saw them on walls and in keepsake albums."

He added the Games, thus far, have been a success.

"The people here are so friendly, it makes for a great Games."

“ I see (medals) all over the North. I traveled to Alaska, to the Yukon, and I saw them on walls and in keepsake albums. ”

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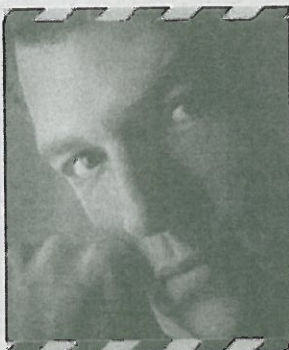
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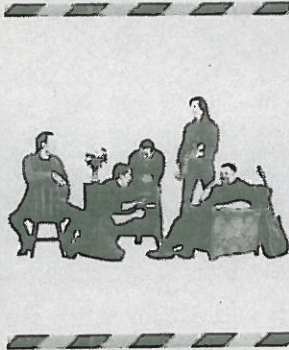
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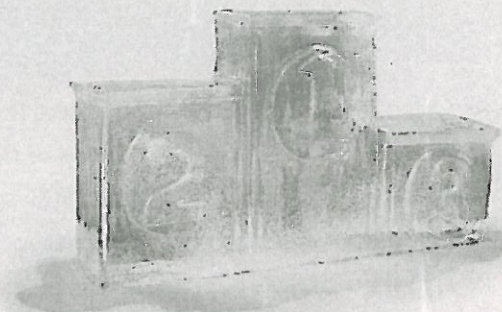
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