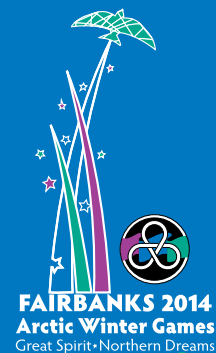


OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

ULU NEWS



SATURDAY
MARCH 22, 2014

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FREE



WINDING DOWN

“Where did the time go?
Last Sunday, the 2014 Arctic Winter Games began with a gala opening ceremony at the Carlson Center. The nine contingents representing the circumpolar marched into the building in separate groups for the gala ceremonies, kicking off an unforgettable week of sports and cultural events.”

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MEDALS BY TEAM

Ulu counts as of 9 p.m. Friday

Contingent

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 Alaska	63	51	64	178
 Yamal	55	58	21	134
 Alberta North	37	40	27	104
 NWT	23	23	28	74
 Yukon	19	21	33	73
 Greenland	10	17	12	39
 Nunavut	6	6	18	30
 Nunavik-Quebec	6	10	12	28
 Sapmi	12	5	7	24

Arctic Winter Games schedule: Today

BADMINTON—North Pole High School, Junior Female Singles, Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 1 p.m.; Junior Male, Singles, Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 1:45 p.m.; Juvenile Female Singles, Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 11:30 a.m.; Juvenile Male Singles, Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 12:15 p.m.; Junior Female Doubles, Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 10:45 a.m.; Junior Male doubles, Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 10:45 a.m.; Junior Mixed Doubles, Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 9:15 a.m.; Juvenile Female Doubles, Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 10 a.m.; Juvenile Male Doubles, Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 10 a.m.; Juvenile Mixed Doubles, 8:30 a.m.

BASKETBALL—UAF Patty Center, Junior Female Gold Ulu game, 10 a.m.; Junior Male Gold Ulu game, 1 p.m.

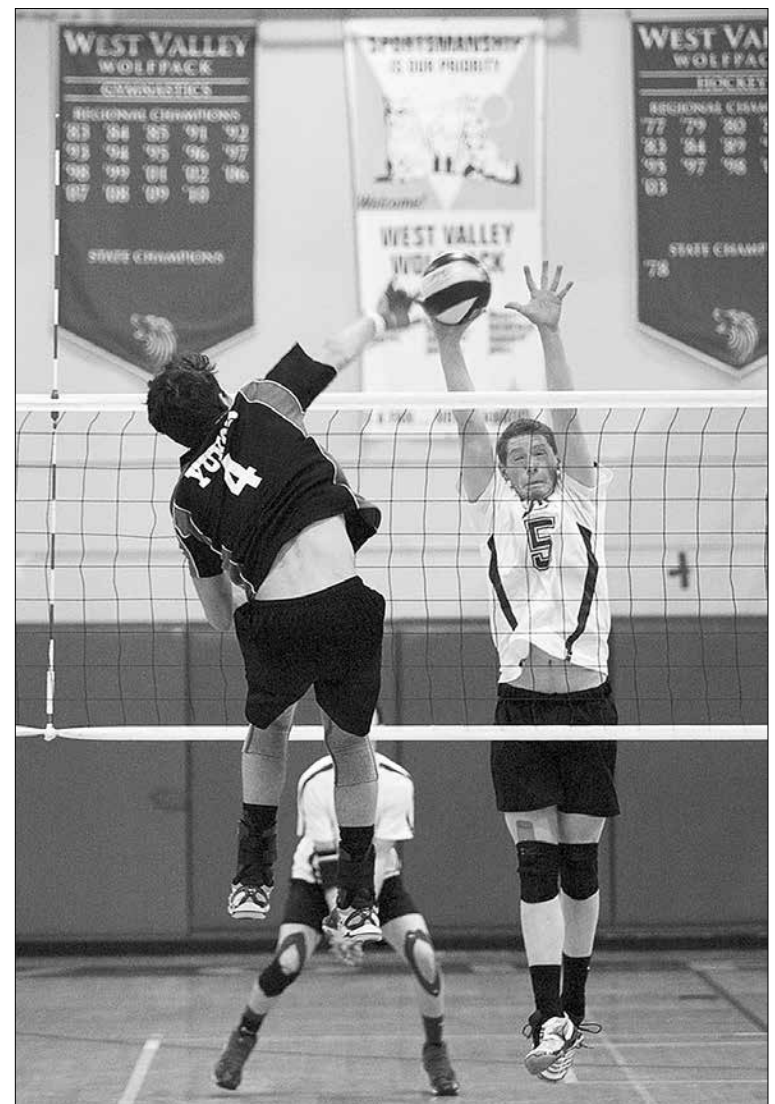
CURLING—Fairbanks Curling Club, Junior Mixed Semifinals, 8:30 a.m.; Junior Mixed Gold Ulu match, 11:30 a.m.

HOCKEY—Big Dipper Ice Arena, Bantam Male Gold Ulu Game, Alaska vs. Alberta North, 9 a.m.; Midget Male Gold Ulu game, 1 p.m.

INDOOR SOCCER—UAF Student Recreation Center, Intermediate Female Gold Ulu game, noon; Junior Female Gold Ulu game, 11 a.m.; Junior Male Gold Ulu game, 1 p.m.; Juvenile Female Gold Ulu game, 9 a.m.; Juvenile male Gold Ulu game, 10 a.m.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES—Pioneer Park, AWG Museums Exhibit, Noon-6 p.m.

CLOSING CEREMONIES—Carlson Center, 6 p.m.



TROY BOUFFARD/ULU NEWS

Arctic Winter Games wrap up tonight with ceremony

By Bob Eley
ULU NEWS

Where did the time go?

Last Sunday, the 2014 Arctic Winter Games began with a gala opening ceremony at the Carlson Center.

The nine contingents representing the circumpolar marched into the building in separate groups for the gala ceremonies, kicking off an unforgettable week of sports and cultural events.

At 6 tonight, the parade of athletes will be a little bit different as the nearly 2,000 athletes, coaches and cul-

tural delegates will march into the Carlson Center as one group to display the new friendships during the week the spent together in the Golden Heart City.

A pre-show starts at 5:40 p.m., and features the Tanacross Dancers and the local band Young Fangs.

The ceremonies will be emceed by Glenn Anderson and Jerry Evans, a former Arctic Winter Games athlete. There will be performances by the Pavva Inupuit Dancers, Dance Theater Fairbanks and White Fang before the ceremonies close with the passing of the torch to Greenland, host of the 2016 Arctic Winter Games, and the extinguishing of the 2014 flame.

There are a few tickets still available for the event. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for senior citizens, military and children age 6-18. Tickets are available at all TicketMaster locations, the AWG Fairbanks headquarters at 333 Barnette St., and at the Carlson Center.

Contingents from nine circumpolar regions — Alaska, Alberta North, Greenland, Northwest Territories, Nunavik-Quebec, Nunavut, Sapmi, Yamal and the Yukon — competed in 20 sports and numerous cultural events in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

PREVIEW » U18




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STEVE DUBOIS/ULU NEWS

Twitter and Facebook and Instagram, oh my!

Social media provides important connection for AWG athletes

By Scott McCrea
ULU NEWS

It's 8 a.m. Friday, and AWG Social Media Committee Co-chair Andrew Cassel is hard at work in the media center at the Carlson Center, scanning through the rapidly growing friend requests to the AWG Facebook page and the constantly changing Twitter feed.

He takes a break from his work to enthusiastically convince the Greenland contingency — who had just gotten done talking to reporters about their approach to hosting the 2016 games — to physically demonstrate the AWG 2016 slogan "join, feel, jump."

Less than an hour later, Team Alaska, @TeamAlaskaAWG, tweeted an encouragement to

its athletes to get together with an athlete from each of the nine contingents and to snap a picture of the group demonstrating the slogan, which involves holding hands, raising them in the air, then jumping.

The first one to complete the contest would win the last and highly coveted #awg2014 pin.

That's just one example of the important role social media has been playing in the 2014 Games.

From connecting athletes back home to community members sharing stories, social media has been a constant presence in the Games, with its effectiveness and ability to engage crossing all cultures and backgrounds.

"Social media was so important this year to connect the participants with their friends and

family across the circumpolar north," said Cassel, who works as the social media coordinator for the University of Alaska Fairbanks. "Some of the remotest places are the most connected. To be able to show people who are in Greenland or Yamal what their children and friends and relatives are doing here, has just been a joy, and to hear them engaging back and saying thank you for showing me my niece, thank you for showing me my daughter, that's been the most important part of social media.

"It shows the real strength and connectivity from social media across the globe," he added.

Cassel said social media is a way for the athletes to feel they are a part of something with the Games. For instance, if an athlete posts a picture or comment using #awg2014, they can get a response from AWG congratulating them on their win or complimenting them on their picture.

"It makes them feel that their voice is being heard," Cassel said. "It's an honest engagement, and connects them to the game and each other."

One of the more impressive uses of social media has been with the CBC News media wall (www.cbc.ca/north/features/awg2014/media-wall.html), which features a collection of images taken from social media channels.

The CBC News AWG website features a live Twitter feed covering different events. On Friday morning, CBC reporter Jordan Konek was tweeting updates of the hockey game featuring Northwest Territories vs. Nunavut.

"For families/friends that can't make it, it's important for them because it's so expensive to travel in #Nunavut," Konek tweeted, when asked to comment on the importance of social media.

The CBC website also has an AWG blog, with a selection

of athletes providing regular updates and offering their perspective on the AWG.

"Even without winning a medal, I am still proud to be here and to be getting new personal bests," blogged 14-year-old speedskater Hayden Hickey from Team Nunavut. "I am having lots of fun, and I do not want the Games to end."

An impressive endeavor here in Fairbanks has been the AWG Facebook page.

Cassel said that right before the Games started, there were about 2,000 people liking the Facebook page. At 2 p.m. Friday, the page was at 6,643.

"I've never seen that kind of engagement," Cassel said.

As far as the 2016 Games, Greenland already has a Facebook page with 833 likes (www.facebook.com/awg2016), and, of course, an #awg2016 hashtag.

Undoubtedly, social media will be playing an important role telling the story of the 2016 Games, 140 characters at a time.

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'16 Games manager gives preview of the culture of Greenland

By Danny Martin
ULU NEWS

Participants in the 2016 Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk, Greenland, may discover some shyness from citizens of the country's capital.

Many people in Greenland have a quiet nature, Maliina Abelsen, general manager of the 2016 Games, said during Friday morning's media briefing in the Carlson Center.

"Here in Alaska, and also in Canada, every one greets you when you come into the shop — 'How are you?'" Abelsen said. "In Greenland, you will think, 'Why is this person asking me how I am?'"

Abelsen has lived in English-speaking countries, and she remembers her first Arctic Winter Games in 1992.

"You walk into a shop and people ask, 'How are you?'" she said. "In Greenland, when you ask how are you and things like that you start thinking, 'Yes, how am I? Well, yesterday my mother did this and that' ... but that's not the answer you're looking for."

It's a different way of approaching people, Abelsen said.

"We think everyone over here is so nice, and they step out of their way. ... We do that in Greenland but in a different way," Abelsen said.

Once shopkeepers and other business people in Greenland become familiar with the visitors for the 2016 AWG, they'll acknowledge them but in a quiet way.

"So you can walk into a shop, and you just get this nod with their eyes," she

said. "We recognize you're there."

The Nuuk organizing committee for the 2016 AWG plans to produce a knowledge kit and courses for tourism-related business in Greenland, such as taxis and shops, to help them relate to the visitors.

"We're actually going to do training for our inhabitants and the people that are going to be serving the people coming from the outside," Abelsen said.

"It's also a language thing," she added. "When it's (English) your third language, it's not like you just step out of your comfort zone."

Participants in 2016 Games are scheduled to receive information kits about relating and speaking with citizens and business owners in Nuuk. The kits will have phrases in the country's top two languages — respectively, Greenlandic and Danish.

Abelsen said AWG 2016 officials in Greenland are working to avoid serious language barriers.

"English is not the first language, and it's something we're considering," she said.

"How are we going to make sure that the people at the grocery shop actually understand what you're saying when you come, 2,000 people?"

Abelsen added English, though, is spoken by many of Greenland's youth.

Asii Chemnitz Narup, the mayor of Nuuk, said that many people in Greenland "communicate beyond words."

"Often many people, many families invite foreigners into their homes and make native food for the visitors," Narup said. "It's another way to show hospitality. It's something you have to be prepared for."

"If we invite you, it's a gesture, so please say thank you," she added. "It's



Maliina Abelsen is general manager of the 2016 Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk, Greenland. DANNY MARTIN/NEWS-MINER

another good way to learn our culture."

Nuuk was co-host of the 2002 AWG with Iqaluit, Nunavut. Nuuk is the sole host in 2016, but the hockey venue will be Iqaluit, Nunavut's capital.

Hockey participants will be shuttled

by planes between Nuuk and Iqaluit, about 500 miles apart.

Contact News-Miner sports editor Danny Martin at 459-7586, dmartin@newsminer.com or follow him on Twitter:

[@newsminersports](https://twitter.com/newsminersports).

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"Often many people, many families invite foreigners into their homes and make native food for the visitors. It's another way to show hospitality. It's something you have to be prepared for."

Asii Chemnitz Narup, the mayor of Nuuk

A day in the life of an athlete at AWG

By Jonni Roos
ULU NEWS

Being an athlete at the Arctic Winter Games is an experience of a lifetime for the select few who are chosen to participate.

It is likely to be a memory they will recall for years to come, but it makes those who are looking from the sidelines curious — what's it like being an athlete at the AWG?

For insight, Team Alaska junior girls basketball player Toma Kimlinger, kindly offered a sneak peek into a day in the life of an athlete at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

Toma, 15, is a sophomore at Juneau-Douglas High School in Juneau and plays wing for the Crimson Bears girls basketball team.

This was her Thursday — Day 5 at the Arctic Winter Games.

...

5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. — Wake up, it's another new and exciting day of the Arctic Winter Games.

Teams awaken at different times depending on their practice schedule. For ice skaters, it's a way too early: 5:30 a.m. to hit the ice by 6:30. Practice venues are scattered around town to make use of all of the facilities available. Large motor coaches line up in the circle to shepherd athletes around town.

For Toma, team practice is in the mat room at Lathrop High School where the Athletes Village is, so she can sleep until 7:30 and still be on time for morning team practice. Even on the road, having a little extra snooze time is important to teenagers.

7:55 a.m. — Don't forget to grab some breakfast.

Athletes are on the go from morning to night, so there's not



Team Alaska junior girls basketball player Toma Kimlinger kindly offered a sneak peek into a day in the life of an athlete at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. JONNI ROOS/ULU NEWS

much time to stop and eat. The fully staffed cafeteria at the athlete's village has healthy on the go options for athletes heading to practice. Hot food, cold cereal and fruit are always available and easy to eat on the bus.

8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. — Practice makes perfect.

"Our practice schedule depends on what we need to

work on from our previous game," Toma said.

"Sometimes, it is just a few minutes to have a team meeting to go over things. But sometimes, it's a lot longer, working on things we need to improve from the last game to be ready for the next one."

Because athletes are selected from across a region, teams playing in the Arctic Winter Games

often have not had the opportunity to practice or compete together until the week of the Games, so it is important to find cohesiveness in a hurry.

However, as Team Alaska Coach Mike Young works with the girls on a passing drill, he emphasizes the need to relax, take their time and smile.

"I have three rules that I make the athletes repeat," Young said.

"Rule No. 1: Have Fun. Two, be loud and proud, and three don't be shy. But I do emphasize rule No. 1 the most because it's the most important."

And the athletes are having fun. The competition is hard, but the team seems to enjoy the hard work.

Team practice is spent encouraging each other to work smarter and work together. When the team gets the drill perfect three times in a row, it is time for Young to pay up on a bet — 5 burpees. He performs them in perfect form, jumping high and smiling as the girls cheer him on.

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Break time.

The athletes break just long enough to grab gear from their room and meet in the cafeteria for lunch before their next game against Team Yukon. The cafeteria is packed with athletes, and there are lots of great smells from the various food lines with options for hot foods, soups, salads and fruit.

Most teams sit together in groups, usually by sport. But there is some inter-contingent interaction, especially involving the 21st Arctic Winter Games sport — pin trading.

There is a brisk trade in pins among athletes and volunteers. Toma relates a story of a pin trade she made a few days ago that required some help from a translator to negotiate. For the most part, the pin negotiations don't require much translation to close the deal, everyone seems to just enjoy the fun of making a trade.

2 p.m. — Off to the game.

Team Alaska heads to the University of Alaska Fairbanks Patty Center for its next game against Team Yukon. It's a semi-final game, and Team Alaska has so far been undefeated. The team plays well together, putting everything they have into the game. Team Alaska beats Team Yukon, 97-36, maintaining its undefeated record and advancing to play against Team Northwest Territories today for the Gold Ulu.



Housing more than 2,000 athletes has its challenges. To accommodate so many athletes, the classrooms at Lathrop High School were converted into dorm rooms, housing 15 athletes at a time sleeping on cots. Privacy is at a minimum, but most teams get to stay together, which has its own advantages. "I don't mind it, sleeping all together," Team Alaska junior girls basketball player Toma Kimlinger said. "I kinda like it. You get to hear everyone's opinion on a game, and you make friends and learn about people."

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

DAY

Continued from U8

After games, the team will usually head to another game to cheer for Team Alaska, or sometimes catch up on homework. It is spring break for some athletes, so Toma only has a few assignments to complete.

"I didn't get a pass on homework over spring break," Toma said. "I have to either read a book on history or watch a movie and review it, so I decided to watch a movie last night. People were really getting into it, excited and loud with applause. Everyone was having fun."

5 p.m. — Dinner.

Being an athlete means expending lots of energy, so refueling is important. There are lots of options for eating around Fairbanks, but most athletes keep to the healthy side, eating at the athletes village.

There are lots of options to choose from and it gives the athletes time to catch up with friends and make plans for the evening.

Making friends is an important aspect of Arctic Winter Games, and Toma knows that when the week is over, it will be hard to say goodbye.

DAY » U16

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GREAT SPIRITS: 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteering for the Games is a long tradition, family affair

By **Allen Shaw**
ULU NEWS

Wendell and Judy Shiffler's daughters learned how to properly fold bed sheet corners when all four volunteered for the 1982 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks. Countless bunks later, they had melded into a family that considered volunteering to be a lifestyle.

As cross-country skiers, both daughters (Stacia and Stefanie) experienced the joys of being athletes for Team Alaska at the Games.

Stefanie competed at the 1986 AWG in Whitehorse, Yukon. Stacia surprised everyone by choosing to stay for the 1988 AWG in her hometown of Fairbanks instead of competing at the Lake Placid Junior Nationals that year.

"We never dreamed they would continue to be heavily involved in every set of Games for the next 26 years," Judy Shiffler said.



Judy (left) and Linda Shiffler catch the chair lift to the top of Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area on Fort Wainwright on Monday to view the snowboard slalom competition. PHOTO BY ALLEN SHAW/ULU NEWS

Wendell Shiffler has occupied literally every level of AWG involvement beginning as a 1988 Host Society activity chairman. He was on Team Alaska's Mis-

sion Staff for the 1990 Slave Lake, Alberta, AWG. The next two years, as chef de mission, he organized Alaska coaches, officials and athletes for 1992

AWG in Whitehorse. In 1994, when Jim Whisenant retired from the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, Wendell Shiffler was asked to serve and has been active year-round for the past 20 years.

Judy Shiffler has been an avid volunteer and cheerleader for all that the Arctic Winter Games provides to athletes, volunteers and spectators.

"I have attended, observed and occasionally volunteered at 12 Arctic Winter Games across our unique circumpolar north and have certainly seen, up close, how the Games promote cultural values, social exchange and sport development, as well as leave the host communities more closely knit and with a real spirit of volunteerism," Judy said.

She'll give you an enthusiastic and detailed account if you dare to ask her about any of those Games. She is the epitome of good-will ambassador.

This year's family involvement

has expanded as Wendell Shiffler's brother, Walter Shiffler, and his wife, Linda, flew from Michigan to volunteer for the Fairbanks Games.

"They did not need to fold mitered corners on bed sheets but have instead sorted recyclables as well as greeting and escorting athletes," Judy Shiffler said. "When not volunteering, they are seeing sports entirely new to them as well as having first-ever experiences including taking a ride on a ski lift, trying a hand at dog-sledding and slip-sliding through dry snow on the way to the biathlon competition."

Judy said her guests are enjoying every minute of the volunteer trip.

"As with so many, Linda and Walter have been inspired by the magnitude of the event, the volunteer effort, joyful diversity of cultures and the universally positive spirit of the Arctic Winter Games," Judy said.

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GREAT SPIRITS: 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Soldier finds magic in music, satisfaction in serving



Staff Sgt. James Davis ULU NEWS

By Allen Shaw
ULU NEWS

More than 250 soldiers, family members and Department of Defense civilians have taken time off work this week to join the Fairbanks community in supporting the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

For many, selfless service is not a request, it's an obligation.

Staff Sgt. James Davis, 9th Army Band, United States Army Alaska, was performing with the brass quintet at a luncheon on post when an AWG representative approached the group and told them about the opportunities to volunteer.

"I've been in the Army six years and am enjoying my last year in Alaska," Davis said. "The Games don't come to town very often, and I thought it would be a chance for me to give back to a great community and enjoy this opportunity."

Davis, 27, has been married to Michelle for three years. He said he got involved with the Army because a recruiter called their house one evening back in Marysville, Calif., to talk with his brother. His brother had been sick and was taking

"The Games don't come to town very often, and I thought it would be a chance for me to give back to a great community and enjoy this opportunity."

Staff Sgt. James Davis

medication at the time that disqualified him from service.

"So the recruiter asked (my brother), 'Do you have any siblings?'" Davis said.

At the time, Davis was working on a degree in music at the local college and was ready to transfer to a university.

"Because of the recruiter's perseverance, he set up an audition with a band liaison and the rest is history," Davis said. "I passed the audition and enlisted in May of 2007."

Being a soldier-musician is one part of the U.S. Army that often is misunderstood. The Army Band's purpose may not be obvious to outsiders but is of great importance to insiders. Their significance can be seen in the way they are received by their fellow soldiers, retirees, veterans and

Army families.

The Army Band is an integral part of the Army, and its musicians are more than just musicians. They not only have to be proficient with the instruments they play, but they also have gone through basic training and when deployed often are required to do more than their musical duties.

Besides playing instruments, Davis enjoys listening to baroque music and sings in a barbershop quartet and chorus.

"I also really enjoy shooting all kinds of guns, especially trap and skeet," Davis said.

As far as volunteering for the Games, he said he looks forward to the challenges they might bring.

"I hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy the Games, since they don't come to town very often," Davis said.

Athletes go for the gold.

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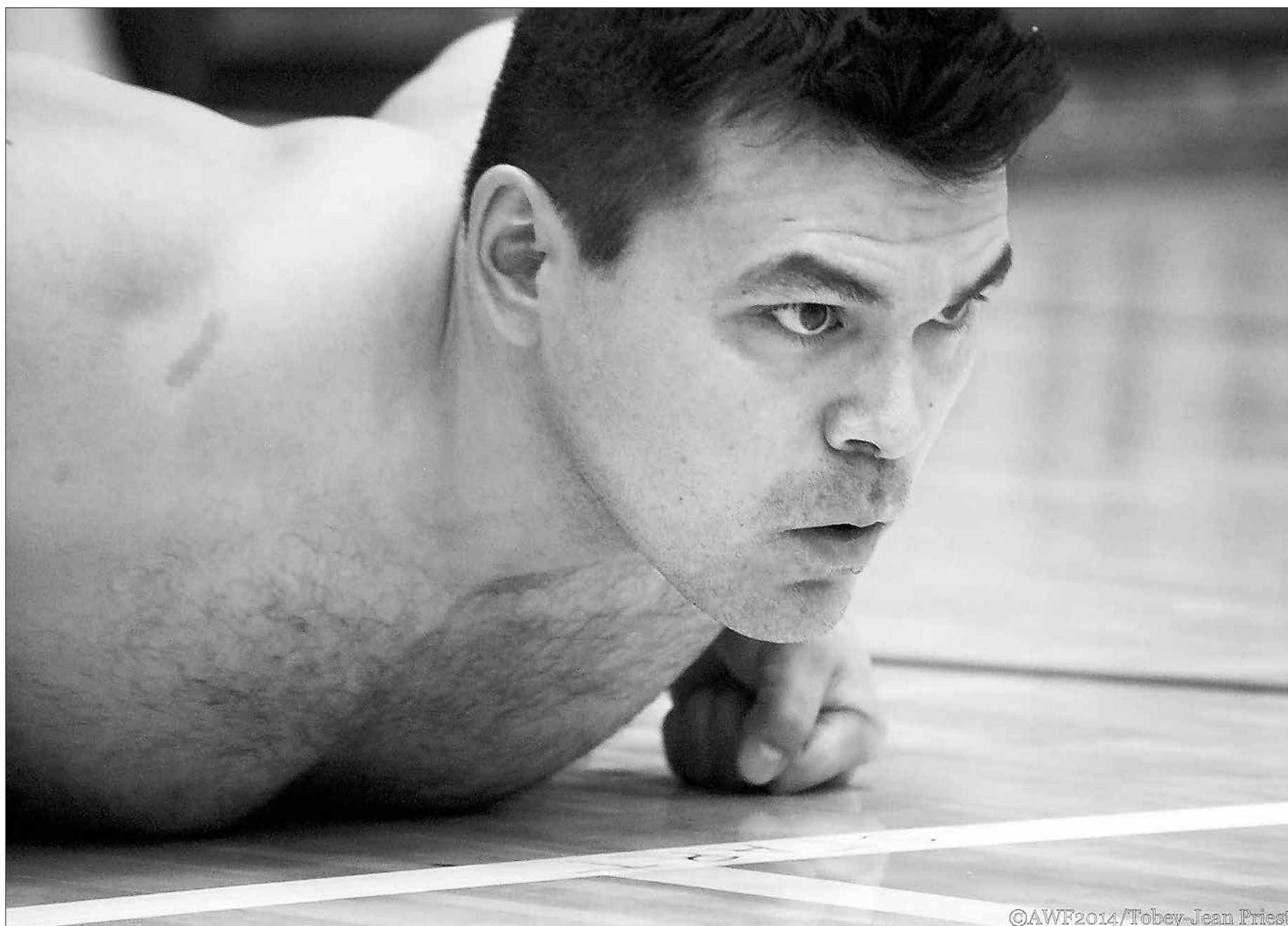
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TOBEY-JEAN PRIEST/ULU NEWS

Despite his bloody knuckles, Nick Hanson of Team Alaska is all smiles after winning the gold ulu for hopping 128 feet, 8 1/2 inches Friday at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. SAM HARREL/NEWS-MINER



Knuckle hop is mind over body

By Tim O'Donnell
TODONNELL@NEWSMINER.COM

It took Nick Hanson about 30 seconds to work up what he called "the bravery" to put his hands under a faucet after completing the open male knuckle hop in the Arctic Winter Games on Friday afternoon at Lathrop High School.

"They are stinging like crazy," Hanson said of his hands.

Even with his hands wrapped in bandages and being iced, Hanson was still all smiles after winning the gold ulu in the knuckle hop.

"Great competition with (Benediktus Jakobsen) and Casey Ferguson. They're such great athletes," Hanson said. "We left it all on the floor. It's just an overwhelming feeling knowing that I went the furthest."

Hanson hopped 128 feet, 8 1/2 inches to claim the

"Great competition with (Benediktus Jakobsen) and Casey Ferguson. They're such great athletes. We left it all on the floor!"

Knuckle hop winner Nick Hanson

gold, eight feet further than silver ulu winner Jakobsen of Greenland.

Alaska's Kyle Worl took home the bronze ulu after hopping 109 feet, 7 1/2 inches.



An official, right, watches to make sure Team Northwest Territories James Kalinek clears the floor during the Arctic Winter Games knuckle hop Friday at Lathrop High School. SAM HARREL/NEWS-MINER

KNUCKLE

Continued from U12

The knuckle hop is used to test a person's physical and pain endurance. It was used to prepare a person physically and mentally for hunting.

While hunting, the hop was used to sneak up on sleeping seals so the hunters could get within harpooning distance. "Right off the bat you want to give into the pain. But after the first 15 feet or so the pain goes away because your hands get numb," Hanson said. "It just comes down to how much can your body handle."

The 26-year old Hanson, from Unalakleet, was the second to last competitor to hop, meaning he knew he had to beat Jakobsen's mark of 120 feet, 5 1/2 if he wanted to bring home gold.

"I wasn't really thinking about distance," Hanson said.

"I was thinking about more when my body was going to give out."

He added, "It's a matter of controlling my breathing and getting through that first 15 feet and pushing my body to its full limit."

The Arctic Winter Games record in the knuckle hop is 191 feet 10 inches, set by Rodney Worl, Kyle's father.

While Hanson may not have known his distance until he was done, his teammates certainly did.

"Casey was down there yelling at me, my teammates were yelling at me. They said just keep going, keep going," Hanson said. "So I just kept thinking 'keep going, keep going.'"

Hanson is also a coach in Unalakleet for the Native Olympics.

"I say if I can't do it, why coach it?" Hanson said. "I'll get down there on the floor with them. Do all the rounds with them. Then the last three boys, we'll push each other to




I say if I can't do it, why coach it? I'll get down there on the floor with them. Do all the rounds with them. Then the last three boys, we'll push each other to the limit."

Knuckle hop winner Nick Hanson

the limit."

Nunavut's Drew Bell placed fourth after hopping 90 feet, 11 3/4 inches.

Contact sports reporter Tim O'Donnell at 459-7583. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMSportsGuy



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Games come to end, but memories remain

By Scott McCrea
ULU NEWS

As the saying goes, "All good things must come to an end."

That's certainly the case with the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, which wrap up tonight with the closing ceremonies at the Carlson Center.

Athletes and visitors will soon be going home. Dorm rooms will be converted back to classrooms, just in time for students and teachers to return to them Monday.

Volunteers will return back to their regular jobs. An event two years in the making and thousands upon thousands of hours of work will conclude, leaving behind memories that will last a lifetime for those involved.

And perhaps, even more.

"I always tell communities that once they host the Games, they will never be the same," said Wendell Schiffler, vice president of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, and who has been involved with various aspects of the games since 1982.

"They will be changed forever. It is the change that takes place in the volunteers and the community members, a transformation that takes place that will last forever.

"In talking to my friends and others in the community, people are starting to feel the ties of people leaving," he said. "They've made friends, they love these kids, they're hauling them around and talking with them. Bus drivers see them getting on and off the buses all the time, and they're starting to take ownership and starting to understand what the spirit of the Games is all about."

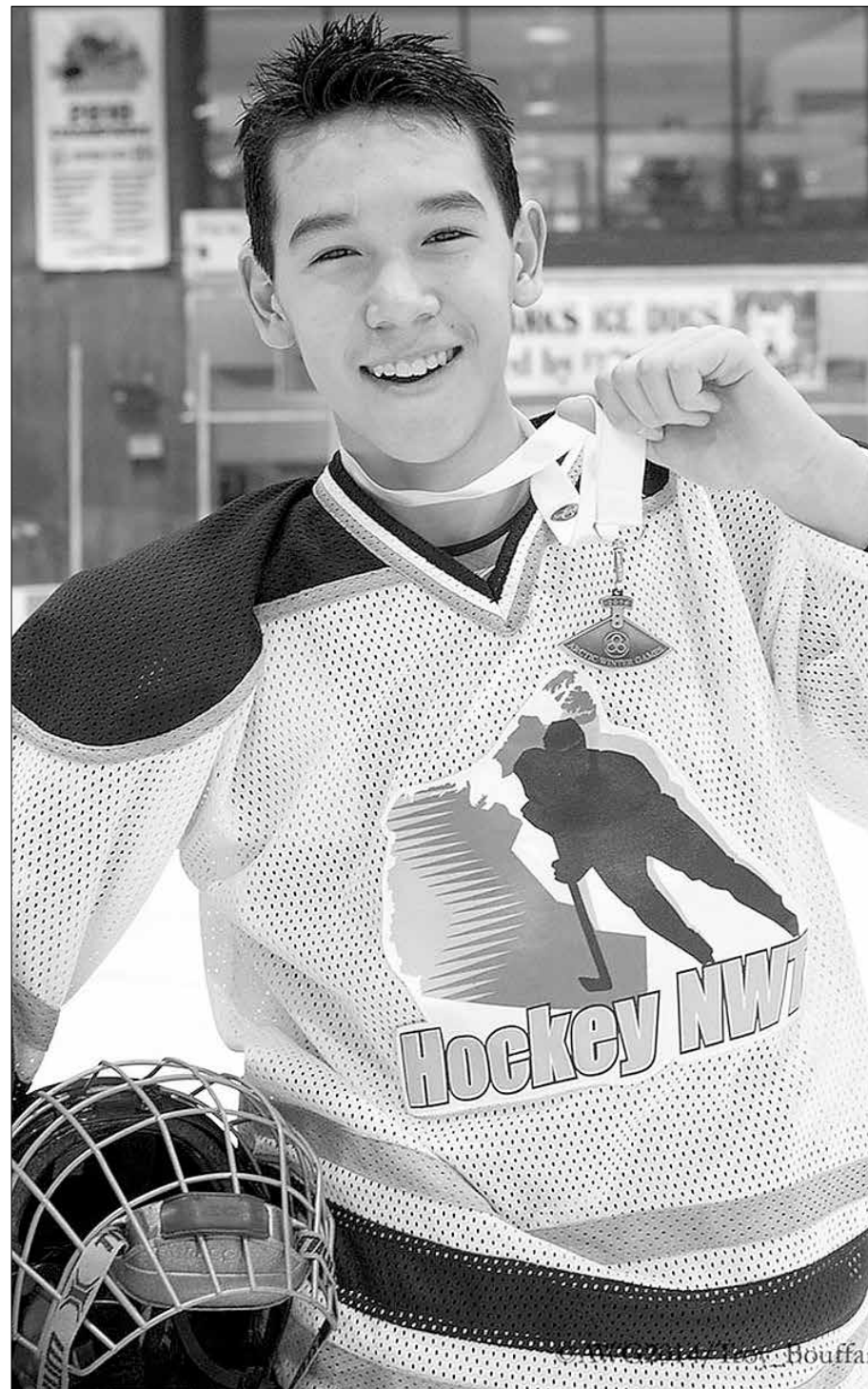
A big part of what made the games such a huge success was the enormous volunteer effort, as was evident by the sea of yellow volunteer coats around town this week. Many in the community hope that effort continues on.

"I'm hoping that Fairbanksans will have caught the volunteering bug in a way that goes forward to other organizations and programs," said Brenda Riley, director of the Fairbanks Children's Museum.

Volunteering for the Games has been a positive impact for many.

"For me, the lasting effect is getting to work with and know people that I might have never gotten the opportunity to," said Karen Wilken, who co-chaired the social media committee. "The bonds created through volunteering will last far beyond the Games."

Volunteers will be celebrated at a thank-you party from 3-6 p.m. Sunday,



TROY BOUFFARD/ULU NEWS

March 30, at the Pioneer Park Centennial Center. AWG 2014 General Manager Karen Lane said that planning for the party, as well as preparing for an AWG garage sale, is on her to-do list come Monday when the Games are over.

"There's still work to do even though the Games will be over," Lane said.

The impact on Fairbanks goes beyond the relationships and emotional aspect

of the Games. The AWG Recycling Legacy Project, for instance, is using the games to help promote future recycling efforts in the community. Contributions from Kinross Fort Knox Mine and the borough's recycling commission will facilitate the purchase of recycling bins to be permanently located at public facilities owned by the borough, as well as some nonprofit

"I always tell communities that once they host the Games, they will never be the same. They will be changed forever. It is the change that takes place in the volunteers and the community members, a transformation that takes place that will last forever."

Wendell Schiffler, vice president of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee

organizations.

"I love the legacy projects that AWG did with the recycling bins, and that they get to stay here after the Games," said Shelley McCool, of WILD 94.3 FM, who also is a volunteer for the game's tourism committee. "Big win for Fairbanks!"

The other legacy projects include the Birch Hill Recreation Area biathlon range upgrades, ADA-compliant ramps at the Carlson Center and the Legacy Cauldron.

Residing outside the Carlson Center, the cauldron was created as a partnership between the Tanana Valley Youth Sports Foundation, Arctic Star donors, and generous donations of time and supplies from local design, engineering and construction firms in Fairbanks.

"This cauldron celebrates youth sports at the Games and will continue to inspire our young athletes well into the future," During the groundbreaking ceremony, said Kent Karns, board president of the Tanana Valley Youth Sports Foundation, during the cauldron's groundbreaking ceremony.

"Fairbanks has been my home for more than 40 years, so it's been a delight to see the games come back here," Schiffler said. "It's sort of sad to see them go, but I know that spirit is going to continue on."

SOCCER SEMIFINALS



Players compete in the 2014 Arctic Winter Games soccer semifinals on Friday. ULU NEWS



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DAY

Continued from U9

"I think our team will keep in touch," she said. "I have made some good friends with some of the other teams, and I hope I can stay in contact with them, too."

6 p.m.: — Free time.

Because free time is so precious with the athletes, the Arctic Winter Games entertainment committee has tried to make as many entertainment options available to the athletes as possible. Participant only events allow athletes time to interact outside of the games.

Toma and her teammates made plans to visit World Ice Art Championships to see the ice displays.

Other forms of entertainment during the week have included movies, dances, a scavenger hunt, fireworks displays, a college fair and health fair.

The most popular event by far during the week was Monday night's AWG's Got Talent, where athletes from all over showcased their hidden talents to a raucously cheering crowd of more than 900 attendees.

10 p.m. — Lights out.

Housing more than 2,000 athletes has its challenges. To accommodate so many athletes, the classrooms at Lathrop High School were converted into dorm rooms, housing 15 athletes at a time sleeping on cots. Privacy is at a minimum, but most teams get to stay together, which has its own advantages.

"I don't mind it, sleeping all together," Toma said. "I kinda like it. You get to hear everyone's opinion on a game, and you make friends and learn about people."

•••

Leaving the Arctic Winter Games behind will be hard for a lot of the athletes. With so many new and exciting experiences and making many friends, it is difficult to let go.

"I'm not anxious to go back to school on Monday morning," Toma said. "But I am looking forward to getting back home."

But the Arctic Winter Games will always be a good memory for her and a valuable learning experience.

"My best memory is winning our first game," Toma said. "I was so excited to play, ready to get out there. Back home, I'm very shy with the ball. Here, I was able to get really comfortable with it."

Considering the time and effort it takes athletes just to get to be part of the Arctic Winter Games, is it worth the adventure? Toma thinks it was definitely worth it.

"I think being a part of the Arctic Winter Games was really great," she said. "I'm glad I got to come on this trip, and I truly think it will stick with me."



Above: Being an athlete means expending lots of energy, so refueling is important. There are lots of options for eating around Fairbanks, but most athletes keep to the healthy side eating at the athletes village. Left: Because athletes are selected from across a region, teams playing in the Arctic Winter Games often have not had the opportunity to practice or compete together until the week of the Games, so it is important to find cohesiveness in a hurry.

JONNI ROOS/ULU NEWS

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PREVIEW

Continued from U3

Before the closing ceremonies begin this evening, there will be plenty of action for people to watch, with gold-ulu games in basketball, curling, hockey and indoor soccer, as well as gold- and bronze-ulu matches in badminton.

The Junior female basketball championship game between Alaska and Northwest Territories is set for 10 a.m. at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Patty Center. Nunavut defeated Yulon in the bronze-ulu game on Friday evening.

The Junior boys title game between Alaska and Northwest Territories starts at 1 p.m. today. Nunavut played Yukon in the bronze-ulu game Friday evening.

Team Alaska also will be in both male hockey championship games at the Big Dipper Ice Arena. Alaska plays Alberta North at 9 a.m. for the Bantam title and Northwest Territories at 1 p.m. for the Midget crown.

Alaska beat Alberta North 1-0 to win the Junior female gold ulu on Friday night.

The gold- and bronze-ulu matches in the Junior mixed curling event take place at 11:30 a.m. at the Fairbanks Curling Club.

There are five indoor soccer gold-ulu games on tap today starting at 9 a.m. with the Juvenile female game between Alberta North and Greenland. Alberta North and Greenland also square off in the Juvenile boys title match at 10.

The Junior female title match is at 11 a.m. between Northwest Territories and Yukon, while the Intermedi-

ate female match is slated for noon between Alaska and Sapmi.

Greenland plays Northwest Territories at 1 p.m. in the Junior male championship game.

All indoor soccer games are played at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Patty Center.

Gold- and bronze-ulu matches in all badminton divisions are scheduled to start at 8:30 a.m. at North Pole High School. The last match starts at 1:45 p.m.

Through the first six days of the Games, Alaska leads the ulu count with a total of 178, followed by Yamal with 134, Alberta North with 104, Northwest Territories with 74, Yukon with 73, Greenland with 39, Nunavut with 30, Nunavik-Quebec with 28 and Sapmi with 24.

Alaska has 63 gold ulus, while Yamal has 55 and Alberta North 27.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough

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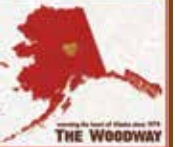
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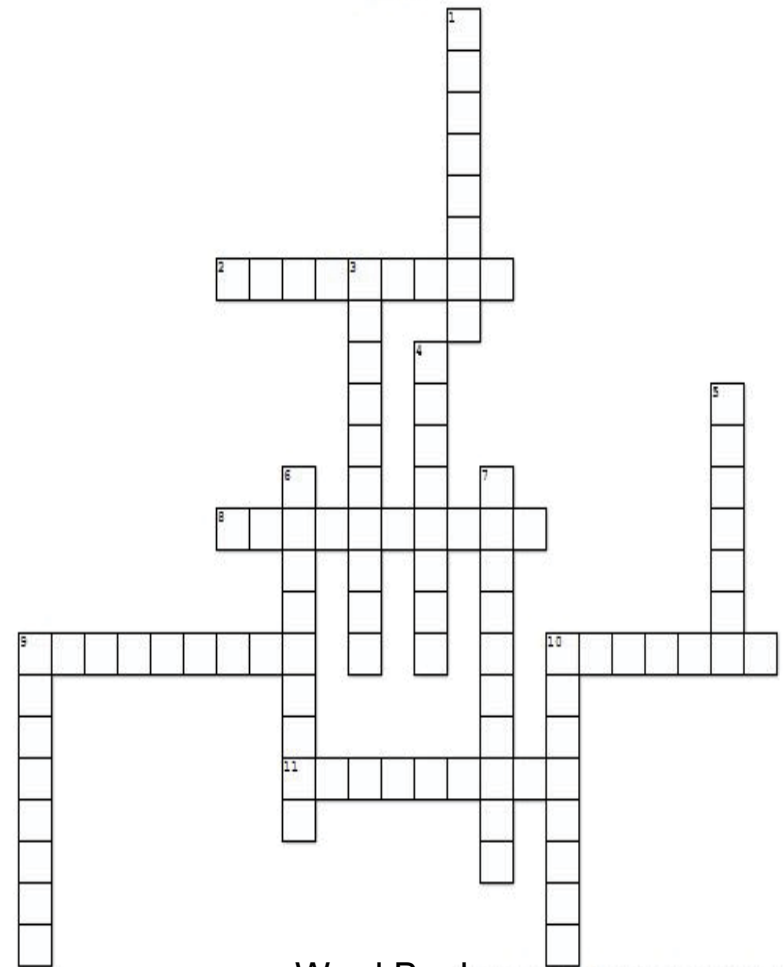
WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unmix these words to spell out the Arctic Winter Games?

eaplni kgisni
adnmbtio
agtmsincys
rewtsgliln

Dene Games and Arctic Sports

Can you name these AWG Dene and Inuit games using clues about how they are played?



Word Bank

polepush fingerpull kneeljump knucklehop earpull snowsnake Airplane
sledgejump headpull stickpull handgames Armpull highkick

Across

- 2. this is a slick sport to play
- 8. a 'gripping' game played like tug o war
- 9. combines elaborate signals and bluffing
- 10. link elbows
- 11. sit like a frog then land on your feet

Down

- 1. use your noggin
- 3. like a push up, but using your fists
- 4. make your opponent step outside the circle
- 5. we 'hear' it is a tough sport to play
- 6. slide this across the ground
- 7. go over the hurdles
- 9. soccer skills help you reach the target
- 10. 'fly' your partner around, but don't let go!



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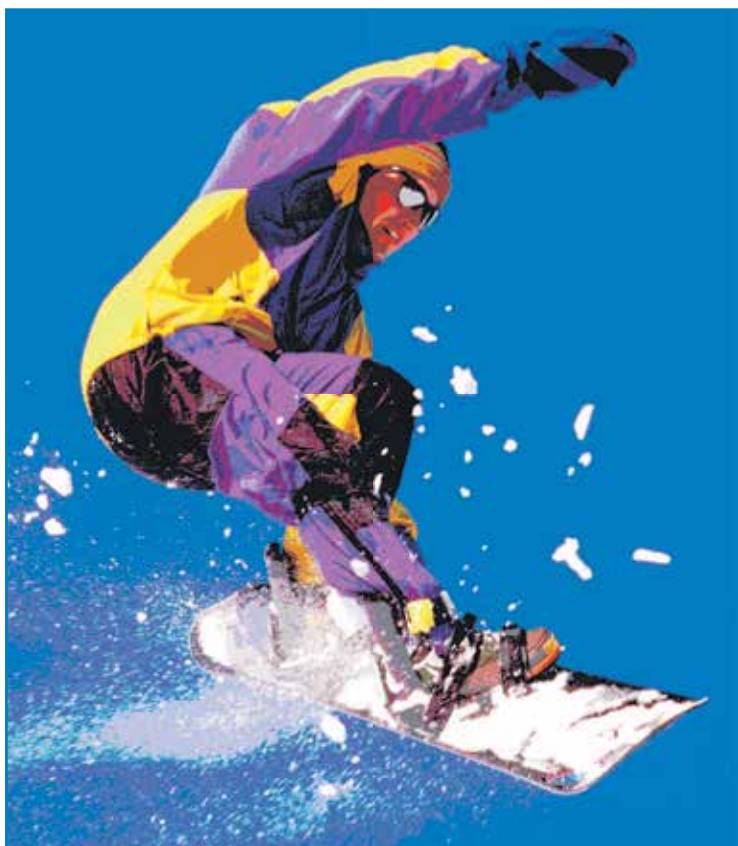
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