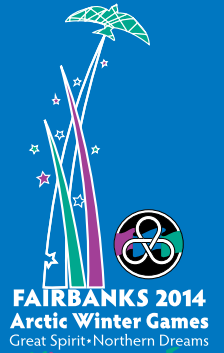


OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

ULU NEWS



WEDNESDAY
MARCH 19, 2014

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“The 2014 Arctic Winter Games reach the midway point today with competition taking place in 19 sports ranging from alpine skiing and snowboarding to figure skating. ...”

FIND OUT WHO'S IN THE LEAD » PAGE 3

©AWG 2014/ Carol Falcetta

A musher drives dogs during the Arctic Winter Games on Tuesday. CAROL FALCETTA/ULU NEWS

CULTURAL EVENTS » PAGE 4 MUSHING » PAGE 8 TODAY'S PINS » PAGE 15 MORE » INSIDE










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MEDALS BY TEAM

Ulu counts as of 9 p.m. Tuesday

Contingent

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 Alaska	19	20	23	62
 Alberta North	12	7	8	27
 Greenland	3	3	1	7
 NWT	7	8	12	27
 Nunavik-Quebec	2	4	4	10
 Nunavut	2	1	2	5
 Sapmi	7	2	6	15
 Yamal	18	26	7	51
 Yukon	7	6	14	27

Arctic Winter Games schedule: Today and Thursday

TODAY

ALPINE SKIING—Mt. Aurora Skiland, Slalom, Juvenile and Junior Female and Male, First Run 11:30 a.m., Second Run 2 p.m.

ARCTIC SPORTS—Lathrop High School, Triple Jumps, Junior Female and Male, Open Female and Open Male, 9 a.m.; Alaskan High Kick, Junior Female and Male, Noon; Open Female, and Male, 2:30 p.m.

BADMINTON—North Pole High School, Juvenile Female and Male Singles, Junior Female and Male Doubles, Juvenile Female and Male Doubles, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

BASKETBALL—UAF Patty Center, Junior Female, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Junior Male, 9 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m.

CURLING—Fairbanks Curling Club, Junior Female and Male, Playoffs 9 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

DENE GAMES—Hering Auditorium, Hand Games, Junior Male and Juvenile Female, 0 a.m., Junior Female and Open Male 12:30 p.m.; Semifinals and Finals for all Divisions at 3 p.m.

FIGURE SKATING—Carlson Center, Free Skate, Junior Female, Ladies 1, 1:15 p.m., Ladies 2, 2:10 a.m.; Ladies 3, 3:10 p.m.; Ladies 4, 4:30 p.m.

ICE HOCKEY—Big Dipper Ice Arena, Midget Male, 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m.; Junior Female, 9 a.m.,

3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.; UAF Patty Center, Bantam Male, 7:15 p.m.

INDOOR SOCCER—UAF Student Recreation Center, Intermediate Female, 9 a.m., 19 a.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m.; Junior Female, 1 p.m.; Junior Male, noon and 3 p.m.; Juvenile Female, 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Juvenile Male, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m.

SNOWBOARDING—UAF Hulbert Nanook Terrain Park, Slopestyle, Junior Female and Junior Male, 11 a.m.; Juvenile Female and Juvenile Male, 11 a.m.

SNOWSHOEING—Randy Smith Middle School Track, Junior Female, 100M, 10:15 a.m.; 400M, 10:50 a.m.; 1,500M, 11:50 a.m.; Junior Male, 100M 10:10 a.m.; 400M, 10:40 a.m., 1,500M, 11:44 a.m., Juvenile Female, 100M 10:05 a.m.; 400M, 10:30 a.m.; 800M, 11:37 a.m.; Juvenile Male, 100M, 10 a.m., 400M 10:20 a.m.; 800M, 11:30 a.m.; 4x400M Junior Mixed Relay 12:10 p.m.; Juvenile 4x400M Juvenile Mixed Relay, noon.

TABLE TENNIS—Hutchison High School, Doubles, Junior Female, Junior Male, Juvenile Female, Juvenile Male, 10:30 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL—West Valley High School, Junior Female, 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m.; Randy Smith Middle School, Junior Male, 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m.; 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

CULTURAL EVENTS—Pioneer

Park, AWG Museum Exhibit, Folk Art Fest and Expo, Pin Sales and Pin Trading, Museums and Train Rides, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sled Dog Rides, noon-2 p.m.; Local Performance Series, 2-7 p.m.; UAF Great Hall, College Fair, 9 a.m.-noon and 2 p.m.-7 p.m.; Doyon, Ltd., Lunch Performance, Noon to 2 p.m.; Grange Hall, North Pole, Yamal in the Children's Eyes, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

THURSDAY

ALPINE SKIING—Mt. Aurora Skiland, Combined, Junior Female and Male and Juvenile Female and Male, First Run 11:30 a.m.; Second Run 1:45 p.m.

ARCTIC SPORTS—Lathrop High School, One-Foot High Kick, Junior and Open Female, 10 a.m., Junior and Open Male, 1 p.m.; Open Male Airplane, 7 p.m.

BADMINTON—North Pole High School, Junior Mixed Doubles and Juvenile Mixed Doubles, Qualifying Round, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

BASKETBALL—UAF Patty Center, Junior Female Playoffs, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Junior Male Playoffs, 11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

BIATHLON SKI—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Female and Male 5K Individual, 2:30 p.m.; Junior Male and Female Individual 7.5K, 2:30 p.m.

BIATHLON SNOWSHOE—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Female and Male 5K,

11:30 a.m.; Junior Female and male 3K, 11:30 a.m.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Mass Start Classic, Midget Female 3.75K, 12:50 p.m.; Midget Male 3.75K, 12:30 p.m.; Juvenile Female 7.5K, Noon; Juvenile Male, 7.5K, 11:30 a.m.; Junior Female 10K, 10:45 a.m.; Junior Male 10K, 10 a.m.

CURLING—Fairbanks Curling Club, Female Medals Round, Junior Female and Male Bronze Ulu games, 9 a.m.; Junior Female and Male Gold Ulu games, 2:30 p.m.

DENE GAMES—Ryan Middle School, Finger Pull, Junior Female and Open Male, 2 p.m.; Junior Male and Juvenile Female, 9 a.m.

DOG MUSHING—Jeff Studdert Racegrounds, Junior Coed Team Four-Dog Race, 1:30 p.m.; Juvenile Coed 7.5K Team Four-Dog Race, Noon.

FIGURE SKATING—Carlson Center, Team Event (Axel, Double-Double Jump Combination, Flying Came./Back Sit Spin), Layback/Sideways Leaning Spin, Sit Spin, Spiral Sequence. Step Sequence, 3 p.m.

GYMNASTICS—Gymnastics, Junior Female Individual Competition, (Vault, Balance Beam, Floor Exercise, Uneven Bars, All Around, 10:30 a.m.

ICE HOCKEY—Big Dipper Ice Arena, Bantam Male Semifinals 9 and 11:30 a.m.; Midget Male,

2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; UAF Patty Center, Junior Female, 3 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

INDOOR SOCCER—UAF Student Recreation Center, Round-Robin Games, Intermediate Female, 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.; Junior Female, noon and 1 p.m.; Junior Male, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.; Juvenile Female, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.; Juvenile Male, 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING—Juvenile Female 666M, 9:25 a.m.; Juvenile Male 666M, 9:33 a.m.; Junior Female 777M, 9:49 a.m.; Junior Male 777M, 10:01 a.m.

SNOWBOARDING—UAF Hulbert Nanook Terrain Park, Arctic Air, Junior Female and Male, Juvenile Female and Male, 11 a.m.

TABLE TENNIS—Hutchison High School, Junior Mixed Doubles, 10 a.m.; Junior Mixed Team Event, 1 p.m.; Juvenile Mixed Team Event, 10 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL—Randy Smith Middle School, Junior Female, Round-Robin Games, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Playoffs 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.; West Valley High School, Junior Male, Round Robin, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.; Playoffs 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

WRESTLING—North Pole Middle School, Individual Weight Class Tournaments, 10 a.m.

Team Alaska starts midway point in lead

By Bob Eley
ULU NEWS

The 2014 Arctic Winter Games reach the midway point today with competition taking place in 19 sports ranging from alpine skiing and snowboarding to figure skating.

Through the first two days of competition, host Team Alaska has emerged as the leader in the

ulu count with a total of 62 as of 9 p.m. Tuesday. The home team has amassed 19 gold ulus, 20 silver and 23 bronze.

Yamal is second among the nine contingents from the circumpolar north competing in the weeklong sports and cultural extravaganza featuring 20 sports events and numerous cultural activities.

Yamal has amassed 51 ulus,

including 18 golds.

Northwest Territories is third in the ulu race with 27 overall and seven gold, followed by Alberta North with 27 (12 gold), Yukon 27 (seven gold), Sapmi with 14 (seven gold), Nunavik-Quebec with 10 (two gold), Greenland seven (three gold) and Nunavut with five (two gold).

Even though the weather is warmer than normal, it hasn't


been a factor for the competitors. An inch or two of snow was forecast for Tuesday night and this morning; however, the rest of the week looks like it will feature more than its share of sunshine.

Birch Hill Recreation Area will get a rest today as there is no competition in cross-country skiing or biathlon. Dog mushing, gymnastics, speed skating and wrestling also take the day off.


Most of the team sports wrap up their qualifying play today, but curling moves into the play-off stage of its Junior female and male tournaments with matches at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at the Fairbanks Curling Club.

Meanwhile, north of Fairbanks the alpine skiers head into their second day of competition with

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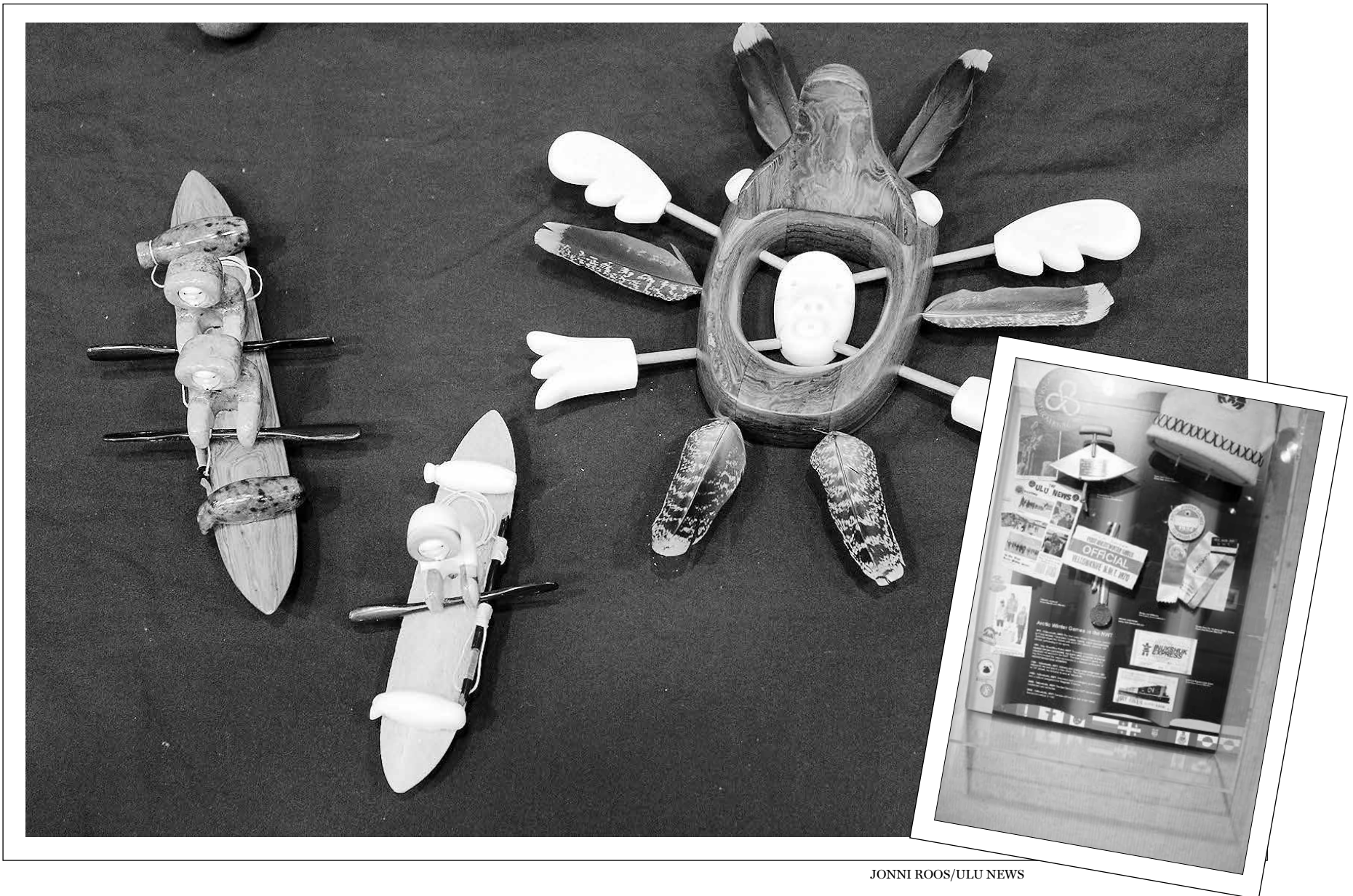
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**Welcome
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JONNI ROOS/ULU NEWS

Performances and visual art fill Fairbanks this week

By Jonni Roos
ULU NEWS

Indulge in the sights and sounds of Arctic Winter Games this week with a wonderful selection of visual and performance art.

Audiophiles take note — Arctic Winter Games is a golden opportunity to indulge in a variety of music all week long. From opera to bluegrass, contemporary and classical, this week is filled with the soundtrack of excitement of the Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks.

From 2-6 p.m. today through Friday, Pioneer Park will host a live music performance series at the Pioneer Park Theatre.

The free concerts feature favorite local bands and fresh visiting musicians and

is an opportunity to discover new music and delight in old favorites.

Take a moment to visit the Folk Art Fest and Expo, open all week at the Pioneer Park Centennial Center for the Arts.

Two levels of handmade artwork were created by talented artists from the Fairbanks area. Take home the one of a kind souvenirs of the Arctic Winter Games for friends and family.

Upstairs in the Bear Gallery, travel back through the history of the Arctic Winter Games by touring the AWG historic collection on loan from the Alaska State Museum in Juneau. Almost every pin of the Arctic Winter Games is on display, along with a history of the games, flags of the regions represented and interesting Games' memorabilia.

The cultural artwork of the contingent regions is on display all week at the Grange Hall in North Pole.

One notable display is the famous Arctic Winter Games exhibit "Yamal in the

Children's Eyes."

This framed collection depicts the games through the drawings of children from the aboriginal communities of Yamal-Nenet. The entire collection totals some 3,500 pictures (only 30 pieces are presented for this display) and has been shown only three times at the Arctic Winter Games.

Cap the exciting AWG week off on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with the GCI Open North American Sled Dog Championship — the longest continuously run sled dog race in the world.

AWG contingents have brought their beautiful regional parkas to wear in this year's historic Parka Parade on Sunday. The public is invited to bring their fanciest parka and join in the fun.

For more information on cultural programs happening during Arctic Winter Games week, visit the AWG website at www.awg2014.com/cultural.

LIVE PERFORMANCES

Today at Pioneer Park

2 p.m.: Kit Carson, singer/songwriter with Alaskan flair

3:30 p.m.: Peligro, Fairbanks born rock band

5 p.m.: Dry Cabin String Band, old-fashioned bluegrass

6 p.m.: Saint Animal, original folk music

7 p.m.: Cold Fusion, belly dancing

7:30 p.m.: Tundra Caravan

Volunteer spirit drives Winter Games' success

By Danny Martin
ULU NEWS

The after-effects of the Arctic Winter Games on a lost community can be as exciting as the events of the biennial athletic and cultural extravaganza.

This year's AWG can create a spirit of volunteerism, said Tim Dillon, president of the board of directors for the Team Alaska delegation.

Dillon was the general manager for the 2006 Arctic Winter Games in Kenai.

"The key to the whole thing (AWG) is what it does to your community a couple of years down the line," he said.

The former University of Alaska Anchorage athletic director and vice chancellor said the 2006 games were a success for one reason.

"Now when you look at the planning commission, the parks and rec (department), all the different 501c3's (nonprofit corporations)," he said. "They've got volunteers; they've got leaders. All of those people started out through the Arctic Winter Games.

"That fire was lit in their belly," he added. "It gives you a good feeling to give back, and that's what you're going to have in this community. You already have



Athletes race in snowshoes during the Arctic Winter Games. NATHAN BETZ/
ULU NEWS

great volunteers, you have a variety of different activities."

This year's AWG has more than 2,600 volunteers for about 2,000 athletes and coaches.

"Some of those folks that are running

the Red Crosses and the other organizations are going to go ahead and say 'I need some volunteers,'" Dillon said. "I can promise you these people who have been out here, whether they're ticket takers, security folks, helping in the cafeteria, it

doesn't matter ... they'll be like 'Wow! I can do that. That would be pretty cool!'"

The cafeteria is at Lathrop High School, an athletes village for the Arctic Winter Games.

Jeff Jacobson, president of the Arctic Winter Games 2014 Host Society, noted that no new facilities had to be built for this year's AWG.

There were, though, enhancements to current venues, and two enhancements should benefit a popular venue for the future.

Two enhancements were in the stadium area at the Birch Hill Recreation Area, where a spectator viewing area and an entrance ramp for physically disabled people were constructed.

The Birch Hill Recreation Area is the site of the Nordic skiing, biathlon and snowshoe events for this week's AWG.

The spectator viewing area has multi-season benefits, as it can be used for summer sports and weddings.

"It's very popular to go up there to Birch Hill and have an outdoor wedding in that lovely setting," Jacobson said Tuesday during the media briefing.

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

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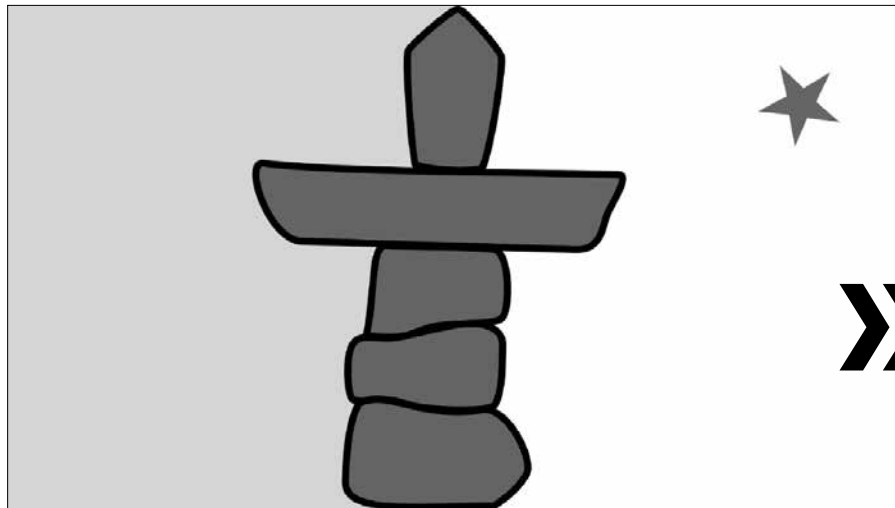
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Nunavut flag ULU NEWS



Sapmi flag ULU NEWS

Sapmi a small team with big goals at Winter Games

By Libbie Martin
ULU NEWS

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Team Sapmi's first appearance at the Arctic Winter Games.

Sapmi (Northern Scandinavia) sent a small team for cross-country skiing, biathlon, snowshoeing and cultural activities in 2004.

Sapmi is what the Sami people call their traditional homeland.

Coming from northern Scandinavia, the indigenous Sami represent approximately 60,000 to 70,000 people spread among Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia.

Of the nine distinct dialects spoken by the Sami, only one is found in all the Scandinavian countries.

This year, there are 34 athletes and six coaches, accompanied by two cultural youths, according to Berit Ranveig Nilssen, chef de mission.

Nilssen says the goal is to "get a lot (of) medals."

Team Sapmi's cultural offerings include a young dancer who performs belly dances to traditional music, and a singer/piano player who sings traditional songs.

The Sapmi flag has four distinct colors.

The largest block of color on the right is dark blue, met with two thin strips of yellow and green. On the left is a larger stripe of red. All four colors are overlaid with a circle of red and blue.

The team colors are red, yellow, blue and black.

CONTINGENCY PROFILES

80 percent Inuit, arctic sports way of Nunavut life

By Libbie Martin
ULU NEWS

Nunavut, formerly a part of the Northwest Territories, has been competing at the Arctic Winter Games as a separate contingent since 2002.

That also was the year Nunavut hosted the Games in Iqaluit with Nuuk, Greenland.

Nunavut, "Our Land" in the Inuktitut language, was created to allow the 80 percent Inuit population to control its traditional way of life.

A total of 279 athletes, coaches, supporters and cultural participants have traveled to Fairbanks to compete in the 2014 Games.

Among the athletes are flag bearer Judy Mariq, of Baker Lake, a hockey player, and sign bearer Deon Kuglugiak from Chesterfield Inlet.

"Our athletes have dedicated countless hours toward practicing their sport for an

opportunity to participate at a high-level competition like the AWGs," said Tom Sammurtok, minister of community and government services, in a press release. "These athletes, coaches and participants are ambassadors for our territory on the world stage, while at the same time, are leaders in our communities."

The Inuksuk Drummers from Iqaluit will perform throughout the week, illustrating the Inuit culture.

Nunavut athletes will showcase their prowess in Arctic sports, badminton, basketball, curling, Dene games, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, soccer, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball and wrestling.

The Nunavut flag has two vertical bars, one yellow and one white, with a traditional Inukshuk, centered, and a blue star offset in the top right corner.

The team colors are red, yellow and blue.

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UAF is an AA/ED employer and educational institution. UAF photo by Todd Paris, 01/2014



A musher drives dogs during the Arctic Winter Games on Tuesday.

CAROL FALCETTA/ULU NEWS

©AWG 2014/ Carol Falcetta

It's all in the family for Winter Games dog mushers

By Scott McCrea
ULU NEWS

This must be what the parents of Venus and Serena Williams have to go through.

Tuesday's dog mushing races at the Jeff Studdert Racegrounds featured three sets of sisters competing in the day's races, with two sets facing each other in the five-dog 10-kilometer individual race.

But for at least one parent, which sibling would end up winning was beside the point.

"It's not about winning," said Harry Ford, the coach and father of Nunavut sisters 15-year-old Patricia, who raced in the

seven-dog 13K division, and 13-year-old Ethel, who raced in the five-dog 10K race. "It's about enjoying it and being a part of it. To see their dogs out there, they're absolutely amazed and happy with what they are doing."

The Ford sisters, who placed last in their respective divisions, came into the race with a bit of a disadvantage. Out of all the teams competing, they and their dogs had to travel the farthest.

"It's our first time ever to travel by jet with the dogs, and it's been a real challenge," said Harry, whose wife, Sally, was also on hand coaching the girls. "They (the dogs) are finding the weather a whole lot warmer than back home."

Then there is the unique background of the dogs themselves. "They're special dogs for us," he said.

The Ford family unexpectedly came into the dogs a few years ago when a friend came by their house one cold December day, carrying, as Harry explained it, "a bucket."

"I asked him what he had in there, he showed me, and there were seven puppies in there," he said. When learning that the friend was on the way to put the puppies down because he could not care for them, Harry showed them to Sally, and they decided on the spot to adopt them. Having the dogs in their lives

got Harry back into mushing, a sport he had been off of for several years, as well as paving the way for the sisters to join in.

Four years later, the puppies went from a bucket in Nunavut to competing in the 2014 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks.

Other sets of siblings competing Tuesday included 11-year-old Taryn and 13-year-old Taylor Beck, of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and the 13-year-old Tweddell twins from Whitehorse, Yukon, Lori and Louve.

On the results side, the day belonged to Team Alaska, who captured four of the six ulus awarded.

In the 10K race, 13-year-old

Nicholas Linton Cole, of Chugiak, grabbed gold for the second straight day with a time of 19 minutes, 20.1 seconds, followed by 14-year-old teammate Zada Maruskie in 20:44:40 and Taylor Beck in 21:48.2.

In the 13K event, 15-year-old Trevor Henry, of Huslia, took gold in 25:52.4, followed by 16-year-old Zack Campbell from Northwest Territories in 26:15.2, and 15-year-old Andrew Noble of Eagle River in 26:16.0.

Dog mushing continues Thursday with team four-dog 7.5km juvenile and junior coed races taking place.

Like Tuesday's events, it's guaranteed to be a family affair.

MORE MUSHING

Mushers and dogs accept medals at the Arctic Winter Games on Tuesday.

CAROL FALCETTA PHOTOS/
ULU NEWS



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PHOTO BY JEFFREY HARRIS

BLAST FROM THE PAST: Gina Kalloch

Former competitor enjoys staying involved in Games

ATHLETE NAME

» Gina Kalloch

YEAR WITH**AWG** » 1988, Fairbanks**EVENT** » Inuit games**PLACEMENT** »

Won the gold in the arm pull and bronze in Alaska high kick

Favorite Memory of this time? I really enjoyed meeting people from all over. There are people I still know to this day through continued involvement with Arctic Winter Games and World Eskimo-Indian Olympics. Many of my friends have gone on to be coaches or supporters.

Anything you would have done differently?

I was not aware of how big

this event was, or I would have watched more of the events. There was so much going on around town.

What are you doing now?

Job: Pumpstation assistant for Pumpstation No. 1, Alyeska Pipeline

Family: married, with two children and a grandchild

Hobbies: I enjoy volunteering on the WEIO board and as a member of the AWG host society.

Did your AWG experience have any influence in later years — decisions about your future, college, jobs, etc?

Since that time, I have gotten more involved over the years with Team Alaska. It is such a terrific experience, I have encouraged my kids to compete. This year, my son will compete in the Dene games, and my daughter was a member of the cultural contingent that went to Greenland in 2002.

Are you involved with AWG now? Doing what?

I am a member of the Arctic Winter Games Host Society.

Looking back on your experience, what advice would you give someone looking to become an AWG competitor? Would you recommend the experience?

I would definitely recommend this experience. My advice to someone looking to be an AWG contingent: Even if you don't make any of the teams the first time around, get involved as a volunteer and get to know the games and try it again in two years.

Any final thoughts?

I am really happy to have the games back in Fairbanks. I hope the community comes out to support the event and get involved. And if anyone has any pins to trade look for me.

Compiled by Jonni Roos



Gina Kalloch ULU NEWS

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GREAT SPIRITS: 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kim Mukavetz loves week of 'competition, camaraderie'

By Allen Shaw
ULU NEWS

Members of the Fairbanks community are often challenged with balancing a full-time job, taking care of things on the home front and volunteering for a worthy cause.

Kim Mukavetz is one of those people with a heart of gold. She is retired from federal service, works full time for the State of Alaska and is the Volunteer Committee chairwoman for the 2014 Arctic Winter Games Host Society.

"It wasn't too long after the Games were awarded (is when I started)," Mukavetz said. "I had been looking for something to get involved with, saw the newspaper article (in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner) about the Games coming to Fairbanks and the rest is history."

Mukavetz said she grew up in a traditional Midwest fam-



Kim Mukavetz ULU NEWS

ily. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in biology and had a career as a park ranger, although she will often refer to it as "a job with a land management agency" to avoid controversy. After retiring, she and her partner,

Bob Herring, moved to Fairbanks in 2007.

She staffed the booth for AWG during the Tanana Valley State Fair and worked several events at the Carlson Center recruiting volunteers. She has watched the team progress.

"I developed the workforce plan for the Volunteer Care and Comfort Committee, scheduled volunteers, assisted with the organization of the orientations and worked with the volunteers at the orientations," Mukavetz said.

She is the point-of-contact at the AWG office during the Games.

In addition to her other duties, Mukavetz still finds the time to volunteer for and is part of Quota International of the Tanana Valley.

"It's a truly awesome group of women, with our chapter motto being 'Guilt Free' service to others," she said. "Our current members are mostly women, but men are welcome to join."

Mukavetz and Herring enjoy spending time outdoors, summer gardening and hanging out with their dogs, Jasmine and Jasper. She said she once spent four months sea-kayaking "most

of Southeast Alaska and the Inside Passage, and is planning a vacation to Chicken in June for Chickenstock 2014.

"It's been rewarding to see so many of the community members jump right in and eager to be involved," Mukavetz said. "The AWG staff is fantastic to work with, as are the volunteers."

She knows it all could not have come together without their extraordinary effort.

"Fairbanks should be proud," Mukavetz said.

Like any good host, she is most concerned about the comfort and care of others.

"A big welcome to the Golden Heart City to all of the guests from outside Fairbanks and good wishes to all of the athletes for a week filled with competition, camaraderie and the making of lifelong friendships," she said.

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Team Alberta's Samuel Hasenclever, 18, left, and Matthew Jacobson, of Team Yukon, face off during the 2014 Arctic Winter Games Arctic Sports Open Male Head Pull on Tuesday at the Coach T Court in Lathrop. Hasenclever placed fourth in the event. JR ANCHETA/FOR THE NEWS-MINER

Athletes challenge whole body strength in head pull

By Scott McCrea
ULU NEWS

Using your head had a whole different meaning Tuesday night at Lathrop High School's Coach T Court.

Taking center court in the gym last night was the final event of the day's Arctic Sports activities, the men's head pull.

The single elimination competition involved two players lying on the floor on their stomachs facing each other. The floor had three parallel lines 24 inches from the center line. A looped leather thong was placed over the back of the player's heads above the ears.

Players then rose to a position with only hands and knees and feet touching the floor. On the signal from the judge, the players had to pull backward with their head, bracing their hands out in front and using their whole body strength to pull steadily backward.

A winner was determined when one player pulled the other's hands across the center line, or if the opponent dropped his head allowing the loop to be pulled off.

Tuesday night's event proceeded quickly, with the average round lasting fewer than 10 seconds.

Still, despite the brief amount

of time, it was clear by the looks on the competitor's faces that it was quite the ordeal.

One by one the competitors were knocked off until it came down to a battle for the gold between Andrew Bell, of Nunavut, and Tonny Fisker, of Greenland, with Fisker prevailing in the end.

It was Bell's fourth medal of this year's games, having taken gold in the kneel jump and bronze in the one hand reach on Monday, and a gold in the two-foot high kick earlier Tuesday.

After the competition, Bell described his strategy going into the strenuous head pull. "Keep your body weight low, keep your

chin up with your head back so the strap won't slip off, and keep the strap above the ears and low on the back of your neck," he said.

Bell stood out in the competition by virtue of his hair alone, which was a mohawk with the bright Nunavut colors of red and yellow.

Other Arctic Sports activities held Tuesday included the two-foot high kick junior female and male, the two-foot high kick open female and male, arm pull junior female and male, and the arm pull open female.

Though they might not be as popular or well attended as hockey or basketball, Bell said that the events held during Arc-

tic Sports are an important part of the Arctic Winter Games.

"I think it's important for bringing people together and helping preserve some of the traditional games that have been around for a long time," he said. "By having these games, it keeps new and young people coming into the games a reason to play."

"Every couple of years they can measure their progress if they have been sticking with it and see people they haven't seen in a while," he added.

Arctic Sports continue today with events to include the triple jump and the Alaskan high kick. The events are held at Lathrop High School beginning at 9 a.m.

Seven teams test skill in snow snake competition

By Jonni Roos
ULU NEWS

Participants from seven contingents tested their skill with the snow snake to take it to the farthest distance on another gorgeous day for competition at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

The snow snake, which is part of the Dene games, features Junior male, Junior female, Juvenile female and Open male divisions.

So, what is a snow snake?

A snow snake may sound like a vicious arctic viper, but it is actually a popular Dene game of skill. The game seems simple enough — take a stick tapered on one end and throw it underhand so it skims across the ground. The the winner is the competitor to make their snake go the farthest distance.

The snow snake, like all of the

Dene games, is a game to practice traditional hunting skills. The game teaches spear hunting techniques such as accuracy, power, control and focus. It was traditionally taught as a method to catch small game that later evolved into a sport.

The field of competition is a narrow trough of icy packed snow edged with high, deep snow berms. As anyone who has had to manipulate anything on slick ice can tell you, it is anything but simple and ice physics defies anything logical.

Too fast of a throw can cause the snow snake to skid out of control, too hard and the snake will end stuck in the snow berm.

A gentle, but firm underhand throw and the snake will sail gracefully to the end of the ice. It takes a great amount of skill, finesse and more than a little luck to get the spear to the end.

WHAT IS SNOW SNAKE?

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Dorron Scott, of Whitehorse, Yukon, put on an impressive performance in winning the Open male division with a toss of 257 feet, 6 inches, which was nearly 20 feet ahead of runner-up Tom Naqitagvik, of Nunavut (236-7). Yukon's Justin Smith earned the bronze ulu at 233-1.

Holly Archie, of Team Northwest Territories, took the gold ulu in the Juvenile female cat-

egory with an impressive best throw of 177-11. Naomi Sala, of Nunavik, grabbed the silver with a best throw of 165-0, followed closely by Cassandra Paul, of Team Northwest Territories, with a distance of 159-4.

Stephanie Charlie, of Team Northwest Territories, won the gold ulu in the Junior female category with an best throw of 176-10. Leannan Angnatuk, of Team Nunavik, claimed a silver

ulu with a distance of 173-11, narrowly edging out Brittney Brown, of Team Yukon, who took the bronze with a distance of 173-8.

Anthony Matt Primozic, of Team Yukon, won the gold in the Junior male category with an astonishing 211-5.

Paulusi Irniq, of Nunavik, took silver with a toss of 193-11 and Jedrek Dendys, of Yukon, captured the bronze with a finishing throw of 193-0.

Dene Games continue during Arctic Winter Games week with hand games today at Hering Auditorium, the finger pull on Thursday at Ryan Middle School and Pole Push on Friday at Ryan.

An overall winner in each of the four categories will be declared at the end of the week based on a point system by placement in each game.

Athletes display their artistic sides at AWG talent show

By Scott McCrea
ULU NEWS

It was a bit like “American Idol” minus a snarky Simon Cowell or any of the contestants being sent to Hollywood.

The first Arctic Winter Games talent show took place Monday night at Hering Auditorium, where

athletes proved their talents weren't limited to the ski trails, gym floor or ice skating rink.

Twenty different performances took place, with acts ranging from piano playing, dancing, a cappella singing, jazz flute and more.

Two of the more unique acts involved contestants delivering a musical performance consisting of a combination of throat

singing and beat box, producing a crowd pleasing blend of the traditional and the modern.

A trio consisting of two performers from Nunavut and one from the Yukon took third place in the evening's competition.

Taking second place was Rachel Michael, of Nunavut, who played guitar and sang a hauntingly melodic song she wrote herself on the problems of alcohol abuse and suicide back

home.

Team Yukon took first place with a dance troupe of six performers who delivered a high energy, tightly choreographed routine that had the crowd of more than 900 clapping along in rhythm.


All contestants were given a maximum of four minutes to perform.

In true Arctic Winter Games camaraderie, all performers were enthusiastically cheered

equally by the entire audience, and for those who slipped or lost their place, the audience encouraged them back on track.

Most of the performers seemed unfazed by the size of the crowd and took to the stage with poise and confidence and proved that when it comes to talent, one does not need to look to Hollywood for examples.

Because on Monday night, the circumpolar north came forth and represented.



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Curlers compete at Arctic Winter Games on Tuesday. JOHN T. ADAMS/ULU NEWS

Curlers head to first playoff rounds today

By Bob Eley
ULU NEWS

Curling was one of the first sports to get started in the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, and it will be the first team sport to begin its playoff round today at the Fairbanks Curling Club.

Playoff matches are scheduled for 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to see which teams advance to the ulu-round matches on Thursday.

During the qualifying rounds, Alberta North sported the best records in the Junior female and Junior male divisions. Both teams finished the round-robin portion of the event with 4-0 records.

Northwest Territories was second in the female event at 3-1, followed by Yukon at 2-2, Alaska at 1-3 and Nunavut at 0-4. In the male event, Yukon was second at 3-1, with Northwest Territories at 2-2, Nunavut at 1-3 and Alaska at 0-4.

The bronze ulu matches take place at 9 a.m. on Thursday, with the gold ulu matches following at 2:30 p.m.

Curling wraps up with a Junior mixed event on Friday and Saturday.

Alpine skiing

Skiers from Alberta North ruled the slopes at Mt. Aurora

Skiland, winning gold ulus in all four divisions of the slalom.

Avery Naim captured the gold ulu in the Junior female race, completing two runs in 1 minutes, 23.7 seconds. Alaska's Roan Elizabeth Willson finished second a little more than five seconds off the pace and Courtney Doerkson of Northern Alberta took third.

Dan Wieben and Will Nagge gave Alberta North a gold-silver finish in the Junior male event. Wieben's winning time of 1:26.24 edged out Nagge by .09 seconds. Alaska's Alec Stepovich finished about two seconds back to claim the bronze.

SPORTS » U16



Daniel Wieben, of Team Alberta, skis in the giant slalom on Tuesday at the Arctic Winter Games. CASEY THOMPSON/ULU NEWS

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A Team Yukon player defends a Northwest Territories player in a Tuesday basketball game during the Arctic Winter Games. ULU NEWS

SPORTS

Continued from U14

Alberta North's Portia Fernandes took the gold in the Juvenile female slalom with a 1:27.88, followed by Katie Vowk, of Yukon, and Alaska's Arianna Marie Hall.

In the Juvenile male division, it was Alberta North's Curtis Munroe taking the top spot in 1:26.74, with Alaska's Cabell Hildreth in second and Alberta North's Dawson Brancati third.

The giant slalom is on today's schedule.

Wrestling

Alaska captured the gold ulu in team wrestling winning all four of its dual matches by wide margins. Alberta North captured the silver and Northwest Territories took the bronze.

Five wrestlers — three from Alaska and two from Alberta — earned 20 points during the two-day event.

Alaska's 20-point scorers were Deirdre, Creed, Gage Warren Hoffman and Joel Valdez. Mikayla Bridge and Brayden Lambert accomplished the feat for Alberta North.

Gymnastics

Alberta North edged Alaska by less than a point to win the team title on the first day of the Gymnastics competition at Gymnastics, Inc.

Alberta North earned the win with 108.6 points, while Alaska finished with 107.8. Yukon was third with 100.367.

The individual gymnastics events are scheduled for Thursday.

Snowboarding

The snowboard competition moved from Birch Hill on Fort Wainwright to the Hulbert Nanooks Terrain Park on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus for Tuesday's rail jump.

Alberta North took the top two spots in the Junior female event with Regan Berg claiming gold and Alex McKinnon claiming silver. Yukon's Rachel MacIntosh grabbed bronze.

Greenland's Mathias Mark earned gold in the Junior male division, while Yukon's Adam Waddington took silver and Greenland's Jonas Stramsted was third.

Yukon's Reanna Newsome captured the gold ulu in the Juvenile female division, with a pair of Alberta North boarders — Sydney Kickbush and Karli Gordon — taking second and third, respectively.

In the Juvenile male division, Alberta North's Jack MacDougall won the gold ulu, with Yukoners Tim Schimmer and Esa Suominen taking silver and bronze.

Other results

For results from other sports events Tuesday, go to www.awg2014.org.



A snowboarder competes Tuesday.

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GAMES

Continued from U3

the giant slalom on tap at Mt. Aurora Skiland. The slalom was held Tuesday, and the combined event is scheduled for Thursday.

Should the weather become a problem today, Friday and Saturday are available as makeup days.

Snowboarders also are in action today with the slopestyle event on tap starting at 11 a.m. at the Hulbert Nanoos Terrain

Park on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus.

Figure skating takes center stage at the Carlson Center today with free skate portion of the two-day event. The competitors skated their short programs on Tuesday morning.

The Arctic Sports and Dene games continues with competition at Lathrop High School and Hering Auditorium, respectively.

The Alaskan high kick and the triple jump are on tap in Arctic Sports, while hand games are

the featured event in the Dene games.

Snowshoe racers take to the Randy Smith Middle School track today to compete in the short distance combined event and the 4x400M relay.

Badminton and table tennis continue qualifying rounds today at North Pole High School and Hutchison High School, respectively.

Cultural activities

There's a new twist to the

cultural events at Pioneer Park today as the highlight shifts from a film festival to live performances from 1-7:30 p.m. in the civic center's theater.

Today's schedule calls for Kit Carson at 2 p.m., Peligro at 3:30, Dry Cabin String Band at 5, Saint Animal at 6, Cold Fusion at 7 and Tundra Caravan at 7:30.

Other events on tap from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Pioneer Park include an AWG museum exhibit, a folk art fest and expo,

pin sales and pin trading and museums and train rides. Sled dog rides will be available from noon to 2 p.m.

The final lunch performance of the week will take place from noon to 2 p.m. at the Doyon, Limited headquarters.

The exhibit Yamal in the Children's Eyes runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Grange Hall in North Pole.

For more information on today's schedule go to www.awg2014.org

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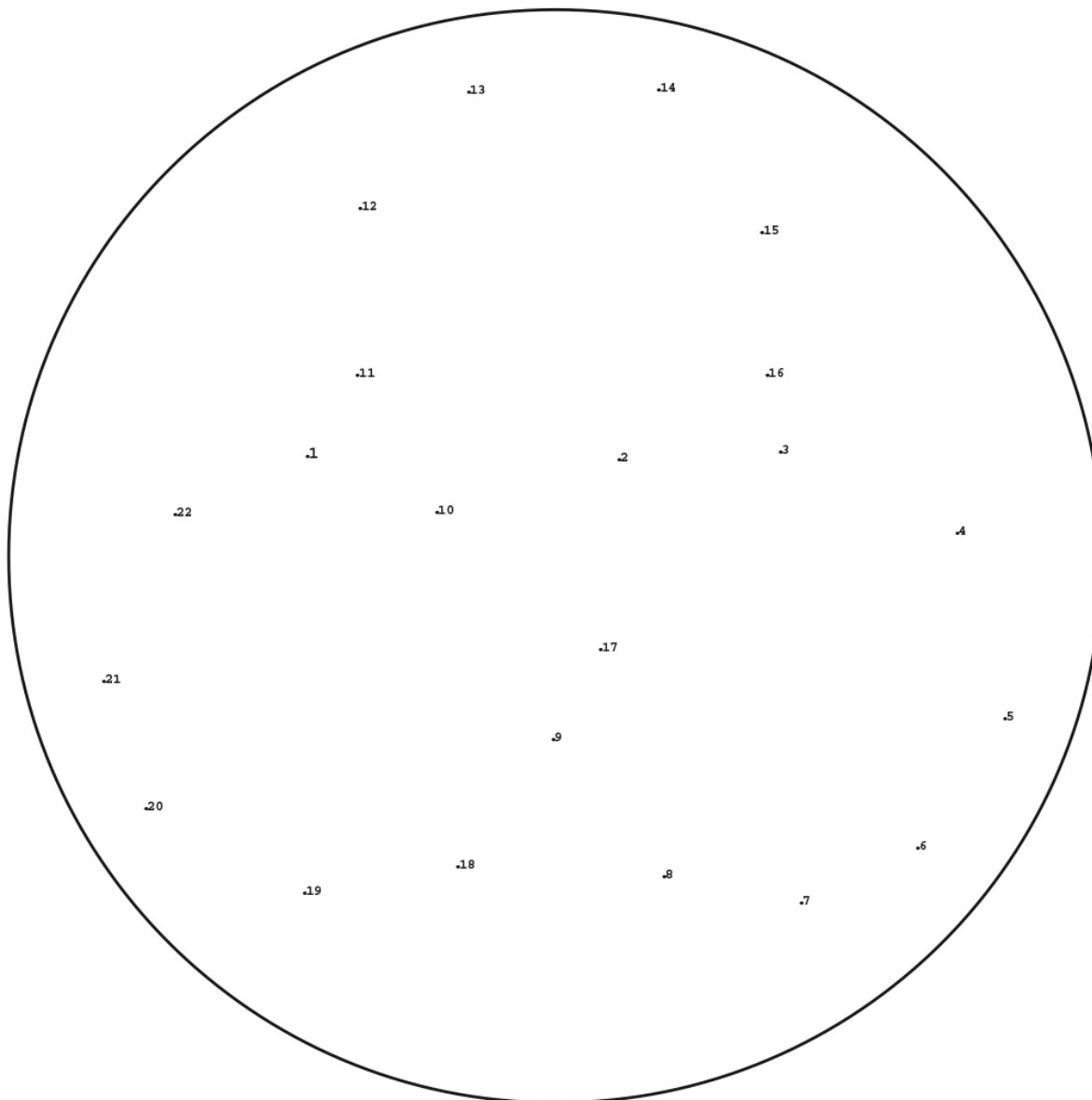
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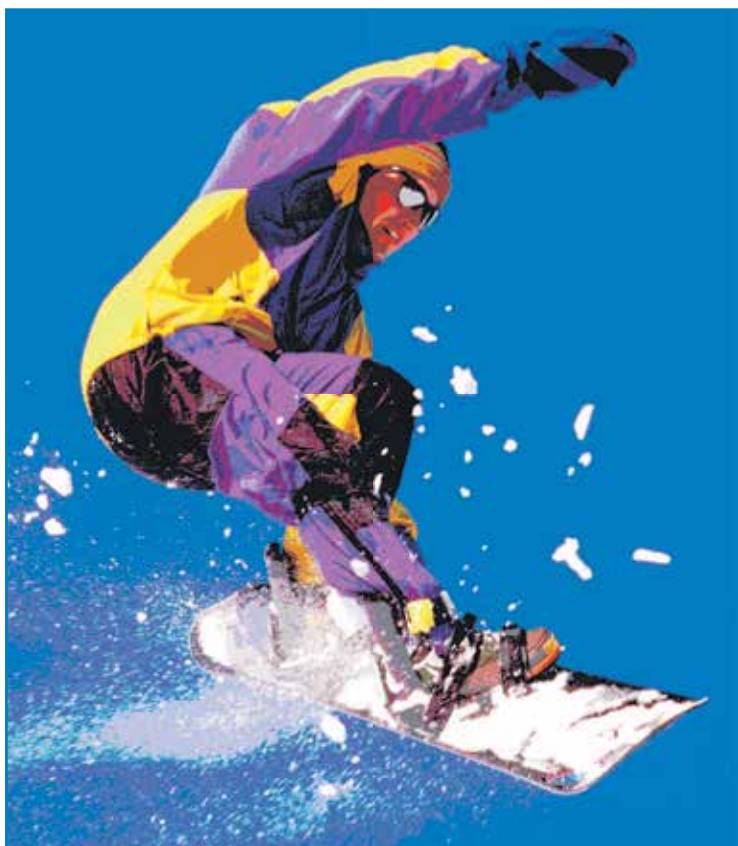
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