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**ARCTIC WINTER GAMES** YELLOWKNIFE 2008

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

# *In today's* ULU news...

### The race for gold

Daily wrap-ups from around the Games ... See pages 3, 5, 7

### **Volunteers** come through

2,400 helpers in action in Yellowknife ... See page 13

## It's tough being Foxy

**AWG** mascot lets his fur down ... See page 10

### **MEDAL COUNT**

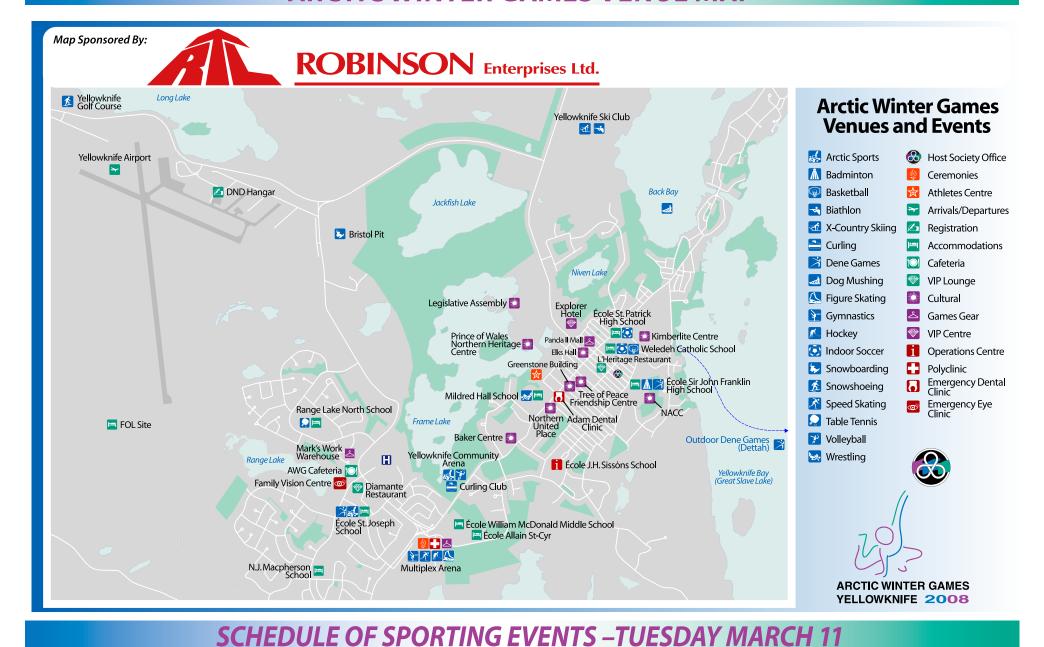
	\$		<b>T</b>	
Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
NWT	6	7	5	18
Alaska	6	5	5	16
Yukon	5	2	3	10
Nunavut	3	2	4	9
Yamal	3	4	1	8
Nunavik	2	1	2	5
Saami	1	0	3	4
Greenland	d 0	2	1	3
<b>=</b>				

N. Alberta 0



Also inside: day in pictures • contingent profiles • athlete profiles • dog mushing

### **ARCTIC WINTER GAMES VENUE MAP**



ARCTIC SPORTS - St. Joe's Gymnasium and YK Arena

Open Male

Preliminaries			4:30p.m5:00p.m.	FINALS			
8:00a.m12:30p.m.	St. Joe's	Two Foot High Kick - All	FIGUF	RE SKATING	G - Olympic Ice Su	rface	
Finals		7:30a.m3:00p.m.					
6:30p.m10:00p.m.	YK Arena	Two Foot High Kick - All	7.50d.iii. 5.00p.iii.	311011110	gruin		
BADMINTON - Sir John Gymnasium			GYMNASTICS - Gymnastics Club				
8:00a.m9:00p.m. Jr. Male/Female, Juvenile Male/Female		2:00p.m5:00p.m.	Women's Team Competition				
	Singl	es/Doubles, Courts 1 - 4	HOCKEY - S	horty Bro	wn and Olympic Ic	e Surfaces	
BASKETBALL - Weledeh Gymnasium			8:00a.m10:00a.m.	Shorty Bantam		Nunavut vs Alaska	
11:00a.m1:00p.m.	Jr. Male	Alaska vs Nunavut	10:00a.m12:00p.m.	Shorty Ba	ntam	NWT vs N. Alberta	
1:00p.m3:00p.m.	Jr. Female	Yukon vs Yamal	12:00p.m2:00p.m.	Shorty Fe	male	NWT vs N. Alberta	
3:00p.m5:00p.m.	Jr. Female	Alaska vs Nunavut	2:00p.m4:00p.m.	Shorty Midget Nunavut v		Nunavut vs Yukon	
5:00p.m7:00p.m.	Jr. Male	NWT vs Yukon	4:00p.m6:00p.m.	Shorty Female Nunavut vs A		Nunavut vs Alaska	
7:00p.m9:00p.m.	Jr. Female	NWT vs Yukon	6:00p.m8:00p.m.	Shorty Bantam Alberta vs Y		Alberta vs Yukon	
RIAT	THLON SNOWSHOE - Yk :	LONGNOWELLOT VICEL CITY		Shorty Female Albe		Alberta vs Yukon	
		- SKI CIUD	9:00p.m11:00p.m.	Olympic I	Midget	NWT vs Alaska	
9:30a.m11:00a.m. Sprint Competition  BIATHLON SKI - Yk Ski Club			INDOOR SOCCER - St. Patrick's and Weledeh Gymnasiums				
2:15p.m4:30p.m.			8:00a.m9:00a.m.	Weledeh	Intermediate Fem	nale Yukon vs NWT	
2.13p.1114.30p.111.	Sprint Competition		8:00a.m9:00a.m.	St. Pat's	Juvenile Female	Alaska vs NWT	
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING - Yk Ski Club			9:00a.m10:00a.m.	Weledeh	Intermediate Fem	nale	
10:00a.m2:00p.m. Free Technique Sprint Events					Nunavut vs Saami		
	CURLING - YK Curling C	lub	9:00a.m10:00a.m.	St. Pat's		Alberta vs Nunavut	
Draw 2			10:00a.m11:00a.m.	Weledeh			
9:30a.m12:20p.m.	Jr. Male 5	NWT vs Alaska				Alaska vs Greenland	
	Jr. Male 6	Nunavut vs N. Alberta	10:00a.m11:00a.m.	St. Pat's	Juvenile Male N.	Alberta vs Nunavut	
	Jr. Female 7	Nunavut vs Alaska	11:00a.m12:00p.m.		Juvenile Male	N. Alberta vs NWT	
	Jr. Female 8	NWT vs Yukon	12:00p.m1:00p.m.		Jr. Female	Alaska vs Nunavut	
Draw 3			1:00p.m2:00p.m.		Jr. Female	NWT vs Greenland	
2:30p.m5:30p.m.	Jr. Male 9	Yukon vs N. Alberta	2:00p.m3:00p.m.	St. Pat's	Jr. Male	Alaska vs Nunavut	
	Jr. Male 10	Nunavut vs NWT		St. Pat's	Jr. Male	NWT vs Greenland	
	Jr. Female 11	N. Alberta vs NWT	4:00p.m5:00p.m.	St. Pat's	Jr. Male	Yukon vs Yamal	
	Jr. Female 12	Yukon vs Alaska	5:00p.m6:00p.m.	St. Pat's	Juvenile Female	Alaska vs Yukon	
	DENE GAMES - N'dilo		6:00p.m7:00p.m.	St. Pat's	Juvenile Female	Nunavut vs NWT	
Snow Snake			7:00p.m8:00p.m.	St. Pat's	Intermediate Fem	nale	
10:00a.m12:30p.m.	· ·			Alaska vs Nunavut			
·	Jr. Female		8:00p.m9:00p.m.	St. Pat's	Intermediate Fem	nale	
2:00p.m5:00p.m.	Juvenile Female					NWT vs Greenland	

#### 10:00a.m. -4:00p.m. Banked Slalom SPEED SKATING - Olympic Ice Surface 3:30p.m.-9:00p.m. 500m Juvenile Junior TABLE TENNIS - Range Lake North Gymnasium **Preliminary Rounds** 8:00a.m.-12:00p.m. 2 Player Team Semi & Final Rounds 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m. 2 Player Team VOLLEYBALL - YK Arena, Courts 1 & 2 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. Jr. Male N. Alberta vs Greenland Crt 1 12:00p.m. -1:00p.m. Jr. Female Crt 2 Alaska vs Yukon 1:00p.m.-2:00p.m. Jr. Male Crt 1 Yukon vs Alaska 1:00p.m.-2:00p.m. Jr. Female Crt 2 **NWT vs Nunavut** Jr. Male 2:00p.m.-3:00p.m. Crt 1 Greenland vs Nunavut 2:00p.m.-3:00p.m. Jr. Female Crt 2 Yukon vs N. Alberta Yukon vs N. Alberta 3:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Jr. Male 3:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Jr. Female Crt 2 NWT vs Alaska NWT vs Alaska 4:00p.m.-5:00p.m. Jr. Male Crt 1 4:00p.m.-5:00p.m. Jr. Female Crt 2 Greenland vs Nunavut 5:00p.m.-6:00p.m. Jr. Male Crt 1 Yukon vs Greenland NWT vs Yukon 5:00p.m.-6:00p.m. Jr. Female Crt 2 **WREST.LING - Mildred Hall Gymnasium** Team Competition Nunavut vs Alaska 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. NWT vs Nunavut N. Alberta vs Alaska **CULTURAL SCHEDULE Performing Arts Lunchtime Concerts**

**Visual Arts Art Installation Project** 

**Visual Arts Contingent Visual Arts Exhibition** 

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

10:00a.m.-6:00p.m.

10:00a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Tree of Peace

**Baker Centre** 

Kimberlite Centre

Northern Arts and Cultural Centre

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

**SNOWBOARDING - Bristol Pit** 

9:00p.m.-10:00p.m. St. Pat's Intermediate Female Yukon vs Saami

### **DAILY WRAP-UP**



The still jet-lagged Saami girls intermediate soccer team celebrates its first victory at Weledeh school in Yellowknife, NWT. On the team are Ragnhild Fosshaug, Heidi Andreassen, Ann Solbritt Logje, Inga Berit Maria Triumf. Kare Brita Eira. Mia Carina Eira. Anna Stroemsnes. Benedicte Elise Dahl.

# Saami soccer beats jet-lag

# Yamal, Greenland, make strong showings in first day of Games

by Jennifer McPhee

he Saami intermediate girls indoor soccer team gave it everything they had yesterday, and won their first game, 5-4, against Team Alaska.

This marks the first year Team Saami has brought an indoor soccer team to the Arctic Winter Games, and the team's first win on the first day of competition is good start, said the gaggle of Team Saami soccer players after the

It was a close battle, with both sides trading goals almost all the way to the finish. Team Alaska took the lead 3-2 during the first part of the game, but Team Saami scored three goals later on, managing to surpass the equally fierce Team

A lucky punch
... but they
deserve it
because they
fought like
wildcats.

Alaska. Benedicte Elise Dahl scored two goals for the Saami crew.

The Saami soccer players said they were nervous heading into the game, because they didn't know anything about their rival. It turned out Team Alaska was "very good," said Eira.

Both teams were "very physi-

cal, very tough" said volunteer and spectator Ron Ross during the match at Weledeh school.

"They are two excellent teams playing excellent, excellent soccer," he said. "It's one of those games where you hate to see anyone lose. They are both playing their hearts out."

It was "one hell of a match" agreed Saami soccer coach Bengt Are Jensen. He said the girls blew some chances during the first half of the game, but fought back extremely well. The last goal was "a lucky punch," he said. "But they deserve it because they fought like wildcats."

Despite the win, two things hindered Team Saami's performance, he said. The girls aren't used to playing with walls, so they were unprepared when Team Alaska

used the walls to their advantage. They also almost travelled half-

way around the world to get here, and are still coping with jet lag.

### Skiing gold

Saami cross-country skier Emil Dragvik Bakken won gold in the juvenile boys category.

Team Saami also won four bronze cross-country skiing medals. Per Inge Lindi won bronze in the junior boys category; Lone Johanne Nilssen won bronze in the junior girls category; Anne Henriette Haetta Reinas won bronze in the juvenile girls category; and Morten Erichsen won bronze in the midget boys category.

In other news, Team Greenland's junior girls team lost its first soccer game against Team Yukon, but won its first junior boys soccer battle against Team Yukon, said chef de mission Claus Nielson. In volleyball, Greenland's junior boys team lost to Nunavut, but its junior girls beat out Nunavut. The Greenland Team also won almost all its badminton matches on Monday, said Nielson.

Team Yamal won three gold and four silver ulus in cross country skiing on Monday and won its first-ever soccer game against Team Alaska. The first day of the Games was wonderful, said assistant chef de mission Yana Vrublevskaya.

"We were very excited that our soccer players won their first game."

She was also pleased with the team's results in other sports such as basketball, skiing and tennis.

"We are proud of our guys," she said.

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### Opening Ceremonies

Monday, March 10 at 5:30 pm MT hosted by Rassi Nashalik and Nadira Begg

### **Daily Coverage**

CBC News: Igalaaq Weekdays at 4 and 5:30 pm MT hosted by Rassi Nashalik

CBC News: Northbeat Weekdays at 6 pm MT hosted by Nadira Begg



Broadcasting live from the Multiplex. Come and watch live radio being made! Weekdays from 4-6 pm MT hosted by Patti-Kay Hamilton

Daily broadcasts to **Nunavut**, 4 pm ET hosted by Betty Autut

Daily broadcasts to the Yukon, 4 pm PT hosted by Patti-Kay Hamilton



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Visit our site to see pages devoted to coverage of the games, a broadcast schedule and photo gallery including the hot pins of the day!

cbc.ca/north



### DAILY WRAP-UP

# Sixteen medals for Alaska

## Slow start for Team Alberta, Yukon takes ten ulus

by Daniel T'seleie

eam Yukon had a great day for hockey.
They played three games and had no losses. The bantam male team tied 1-1 in their battle against the NWT, while the midget male and junior female teams had decisive victories over the NWT and Nunavut 7-1 and 10-3 respectively. Team Yukon also had a strong showing in soccer, with four wins, one tie and one loss.

"We also had a really great day in badminton, a really great day," said Tracey Bilsky, assistant chef de mission.

The badminton players won eight matches throughout the different divisions.

Yukon's Jordan Howse took the gold ulu in the junior male kneel jump with his jump of 113.0-centimetres, beating Nunavut's David Shooyook by two-centimetres.

Erin Oliver-Beebe and Ryan Burlingame, both of Team Yukon, won gold ulus for the individual junior female five-kilometres ski biathlon and individual senior male 7.5-kilometres ski biathlon.

The volleyball courts were locked down by Team Alberta North. Of six total games, three in the junior male division and three in junior female, they managed to win every one. The Albertans also got off to a good start in curling, winning both opening round robin games in the junior male and junior female divisions. The junior male team defeated NWT 5-3 and took the Yukon 9-6.

With her jump of 106.7-centimetres, Coral Deleff secured the silver ulu for Alberta in the junior female kneel jump. It was the team's only medal on the opening day of competition.

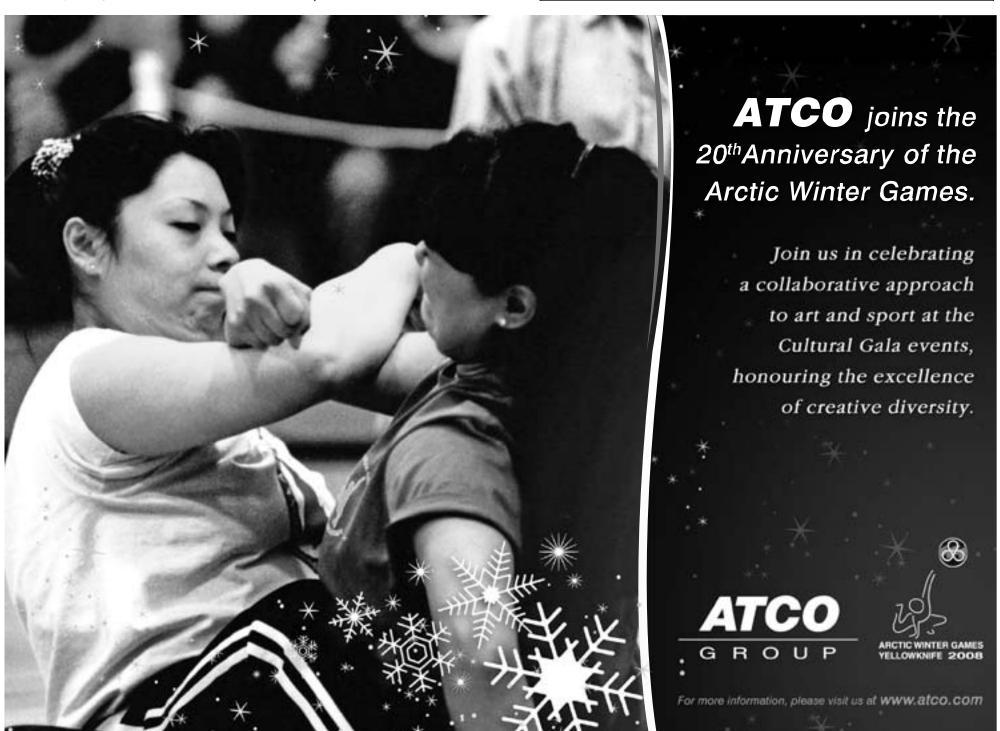
Team Alaska excelled in biathlon on Monday, both ski and snowshoe. Biathletes brought in seven ulus, three of them gold. Jasmine Neeno won gold in the individual senior female 7.5-kilometres ski biathlon – finishing only three seconds ahead of Yamal-Nenets' Irina Radchinskaya – Jeff Bue won gold in the individual senior male five-kilometre snowshoe biathlon and Stephanie Dow won gold in the individual senior female five-kilometre biathlon.

The Americans managed a good showing in Arctic sports, with a gold ulu in the open kneel jump. This despite the conspicuous first-time absence of veterans Nicole Johnston, veteran competitor and coach, and Jesse Frankson, holder of three world records. Tiffany Clark secured the gold with a 103.5-centimetre effort, well outdistancing her second and third place rivals by more than 10-centimetres.

### **Racing the Bay**



**Trisha Beck finishes the second qualifying race** for the Team NWT territorial qualifier in the Juvenile dogsled race on Friday.



From March 9–15 Northwestel encourages everyone to come together and cheer

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### **DAILY WRAP-UP**

# Team NWT tops day one

# Nunavut wins nine medals, five for Nunavik

by Lisa Scot

t may have been the first day of competition, but the Games action started quickly on the badminton court. In junior boy's badminton, Noah Annanack of team Nunavik started off strong, winning both his individual games in competition Monday.

NWT player Coady Thomas Duncan took his first match, while Nunavut player Gary Gibbons won one match and lost one.

On the women's side, Nunavik junior female player Vanessa Aragutak played one singles match and came out on top. NWT player Amber Mandeville won her singles match, while Paula Piryuaq took one match and lost another.

Nunavik coach Yooah Bang was happy with her team's start, saying their strategy coming in is to work hard and keep a positive attitude, even if some players lose games.

The Nunavik boys juvenile and junior badminton players are coming in strong for this contingent, while the girls struggled off the start, getting used to playing with new teammates in junior girls doubles.

Snowshoe biathlon was first on the tracks at the Yellowknife Ski Club on Monday. In the junior female snowshoe, NWT athlete Alicia Norris had a smoking time to take the gold, more than six minutes ahead of the next racer. NWT teammate Colton Glaicar took gold in the junior male snowshoe three-kilometre race.

In the senior female snowshoe five-kilometre event, Stephanie Dow of Alaska came out on top, while NWT athletes Charlene Deneyoua was right behind her, followed by Nikita Hehn of NWT for the bronze.

### Off the mark

Norris and teammate Madison Pilling warmed up in the NWT team trailer after the competition.

"It was really fun," says Pilling, who had a tough go on the shooting range, hitting five out of 15 targets.

"It's hard when you're really tired and you have to come in and shoot, because you have to really focus," says the 11-year-old.

Team NWT's Brandon Norris, 13, had a good race, finishing second to Glaicar in the junior male category. His shooting on the range of nine out of 15 targets wasn't as good as he had hoped, but helped him to the silver.

However, the big news of the day was team NWT in snowshoe biathlon, as the team took two gold, three silver and one bronze on Monday.

"We're a biathlon region and that's a great start to for our biathlon team," said Rob Meckling, mission support staff for the team. He credits strong coaching and a strong history in Nordic events for the great results.

As the snowshoe biathlon wrapped up, cross-country skiing took over at the Yellowknife Ski Club. As predicted by his coaches, NWT player Oliver Hodgins took







Top: NWT b-ball player Elora Braden fights it out with Nunavut player Rebecca Rowan.

**Above right: Nunavut players Alexander Tuktudjuk, left, and Louis Lebel-Wong, right,** go over strategy with coach Michael Putulik after the first few badminton games on Monday.

**Above: NWT athletes Nikita Hehn and Tyler Jumbo** compete Monday in the snowshoe biathlon.

**Right: Fort Simpson, NWT athlete Alicia Norris** finishes the three-kilometre individual snowshoe biathlon on the first day of competition.

the gold in the midget male 2.5-kilometre classic, coming in six seconds ahead of athletes from the Yukon and Saami.

In the juvenile and junior divisions, medals were split between team Yamal, Saami and Yukon. Yamal managed two gold medals on the tracks.

Over at Weledeh school, the friendly rivalry between the girls Northwest Territories team and team Nunavut continued, with the former easily taking their first game 73-32. The girls team from Yamal took Alaska 88-34, that makes NWT and Yamal front-runners in girls basketball, with team Yukon yet to play a match.

Speed skating proved to be exciting right off the bat today. Team Nunavut snagged a gold medal in

the 777-metre juvenile men's race with athlete David Coulombe. On the girls side, Hannah Clark of the NWT won gold. The junior division 1,000-metre races were also held today at the Multiplex, with an upset among the junior girls as favourite Marie-Christine Auger, who had the best time in preliminary heats, was disqualified. Nunavut's Sarah Ali took gold with a strong time, while NWT's Stephanie Bourgois took silver. On the men's junior side, Troy Henry of the Yukon won gold, while Angus Smith of NWT took silver, and Manasie Kendall of Nunavut took bronze. The athletes improved on heat times by a whopping five seconds.

For team Nunavut, Monday was a good day. Kyle Seeley, assistant Chef de Mission for Team Nunavut was really happy with the team's play.

"It's been a fantastic day. The kids are still getting their feet under them after travelling here and we're looking forward to growing stronger as the week progresses," he says.

Highlights of the day include personal best results for athletes in badminton, a win over the Yukon in boys volleyball and some good action in the kneel jump in Arctic Sports. The team managed to snag four medals in the kneel jump in Arctic sports. In the junior category, David Inuuya Shooyook took the silver, while Eliza Naomi Alookee took gold. In the open event, Sean Nipisar took bronze, while Malaiyah Enuapik won the silver medal.



### THE DAY IN PICTURES



 $\textbf{Clara Klassen and Marc-Andre Ferland} \ prepare \ food \ for \ the \ athletes.$ 



Yamal's Fadima Adamova drives past Alaska's Sheridan Culver during basketball action at Weledeh school Monday.



A diverse crowd mills about at the Yellowknife Multiplex.



Team Yamal lets out a hearty cheer at Weledeh school.



**Prime Minister Stephen Harper** took time during his visit to Yellowknife, NWT, for a short ride on a dog sled on Back Bay Monday.

### THE DAY IN PICTURES



**Sometimes the kneel jump** can be even harder than it looks.



This Arctic sports participant showed his true colours during the competition at Ecole St. Joseph.



hotos Merle Robillard

A model displays one of the creations by D'Arcy Moses during the fashion show at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre Sunday.



**Jeanne Yurris of Team NWT** competes in the juvenile female 777-metre speed skating event at the Yellowknife Multiplex Monday.



A model displays an original outfit while Aaron "Godson" Hernandez spins the tunes during the fashion show at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre Sunday.

### **AROUND THE GAMES**

# Foxy copes with celebrity

# Stretching, hugs key to success - mascot

by Lica Sco

t's hard to be a fox out in the Arctic-wilds, worrying about surviving and finding food, but this week Foxy is having a pretty good time and enjoying the celebrity of being the 2008 Arctic Winter Games' official mascot.

The Ulu News got a one on one interview with the wily fox, a rarity for the usually mute caricature. Foxy started a hectic week

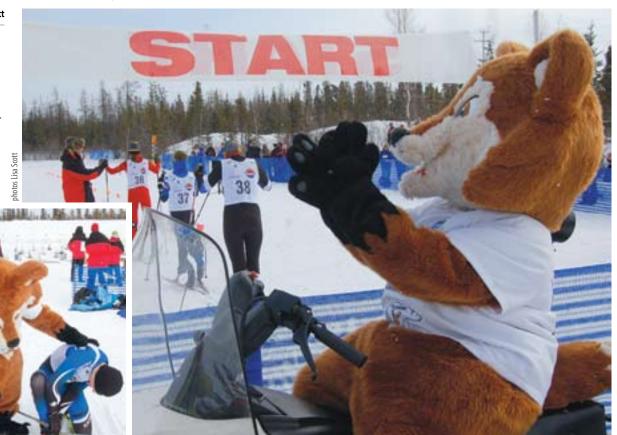
of venue-visiting this weekend as athletes began arriving in the city. When we caught up with him he was enjoying his newfound fame and lapping up all the attention.

"This week is great because I come from a large litter of foxes and I was sort of anonymous, but now that I'm the only fox here, it's working out well. I'm enjoying the attention," he says.

Everywhere Foxy goes, his fans come out of the woodwork. In one visit to the biathlon range, he was stopped for photos by

coaches, volunteers and athletes. Everyone wants a piece of Foxy. It would be easy for the fame to go to his head, but he's taking it all in stride.

"It feels really good to be wanted and loved and to go to all the sporting events and mix in with



**Above: The official AWG mascot Foxy cheers on biathletes** from his perch on a snowmobile. **Left: Foxy** makes sure NWT skiers get their gear on properly before biathlon on Monday.

the teams. Sometimes they treat

me like one of their own – I get to warm up and play and even ring the bells," he says.

Cross-country skiers from Alaska were happy to see the mascot on the ski trails on Monday. Noah Hagen of Anchorage says that Foxy is cool – perhaps the ultimate mascot compliment from an athlete.

Teammates Kyle Barnhart, 15, and Kuba Grzeda, 13, also dug the red fox. When told of Foxy's fervid schedule, they didn't have much sympathy though.

"He'll make it. We're pretty tired too you know," says Hagen.

This week is pretty hectic for the AWG mascot. He wakes up every day at 7 a.m., does some stretching

to prepare for all the walking and hugging he will have to do and then heads to the cafeteria for a hearty breakfast.

"I stretch every morning. You know, you've got to warm up for the Games," he says.

Foxy has had to mix up his eating habits for the week, straying from his regular carnivore's fare and eating more healthy food from Chef

Pierre's menus, even trying out lettuce and burritos.

"I had my first burrito today."

"They've decided to be very nutritious at the Games, so I'm trying to fit in with that. Every once in a while I spy a lemming and they look good, but I'm trying to hold back. I'm going on a lemming-free diet 'til the Games are over."

The lucky fox has his own personal groomer and gets his shirt washed, and has his hair brushed out regularly.

Between running around town, Foxy had a chance to discuss his favourite parts of the Games so far.

"I really liked the opening ceremonies. I got to meet lots of neat people, including the Prime Minister. I think he's partial to foxes, because he was really nice. The secret service was a little iffy, but they let me in," he says.

Foxy will be jumping from sport to sport and visiting cultural and other venues in Yellowknife all week. He welcomes photos with athletes, coaches and parents and can even be convinced to hop on snowmobiles or on the ice for a

The official mascot started his term with the 2008 Arctic Winter Games a year ago, appearing in parades and at special events to promote the Games in Yellowknife.

His gig is a working one, but after all is said and done this fox knows what the Games are really about.

"You know, I just want to have fun," he says before packing up and heading to another venue.

### **CONTINGENT PROFILE**

# Yamal goes all out for culture and sports

### Region brings large contingent for third games

by Jennifer McPhee

eam Yamal is three times bigger than ever before.
A participant in the Arctic Winter Games for just four years, Team Yamal brought 85 people to this year's Games, including 62 athletes and five cultural performers.

For the first time ever, Team Yamal is competing in basketball, indoor soccer and in figure skating as an entire team.

"Last time, we had only two figure skaters and they could not participate in team events," says assistant chef de mission Yana Vrublevskaya.

"We will see if we have success," she adds. "It's very expensive to travel to Canada or North America. I am not sure if we will bring such a large team next time, but we will try to do our best."

Team Yamal is also competing in Arctic sports, biathlon, table

I am not sure if we will bring such a large team next time, but we will try to do our best.

tennis, snowshoeing and snow-boarding.

So far, the team is doing amazingly well. On Monday, the junior male soccer team won its very first game against Nunavut, and its cross-country skiers cleaned up on the trails, winning four ulus: one gold, two silver and a bronze.

The team's five-member cultural contingent performed for the first time on Monday at the

Tree of Peace. "People are very friendly, and it's so nice to meet other artists," says instructor Stepan Zinchenko, speaking through translator Oksana Kharuchi.

The only downside is that everyone here speaks English except for them. This experience, however, has motivated them to learn the language. "Next year, we are going to come to the Arctic Winter Games and we are going to speak English," says Zinchenko.

The cultural group will showcase its talent again during the lunchtime cultural shows today and Wednesday – each show will be different – as well as at the cultural galas on Thursday and Friday.

Vrublevskaya said locals and visitors should definitely check out the Team Yamal cultural shows.

"You will enjoy the costumes, you will enjoy the performance, you will enjoy the program they choose," she says.



**Team Yamal's cultural performers wowed the crowd** with their elaborate aboriginal costumes, drum-dancing and singing at the Tree of Peace yesterday. From left to right: Stepan Zinchenko, Daria Pervushina, Natasha Tynzyanova and Alexander Buslovsky.

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As the sharpest and the fastest to solve all the clues.

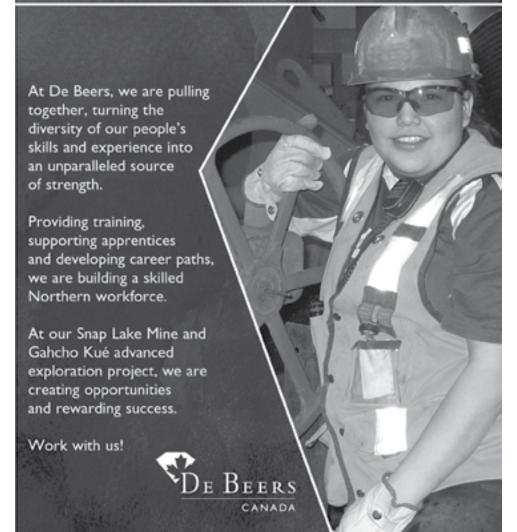
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#### Yesterday's winners

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- Megan Shaben, NWT

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### **CONTINGENT PROFILE**

# It's a dog's life for them

## Alaskan mushers spend five barking-mad days on the road

by Daniel T'seleie

ransporting more than 400 people from Alaska to Yellowknife is no easy feat. It took five charters leaving from various parts of the state to move Team Alaska, and not without incident.

"Lost luggage, unconstructed bunk beds and people wondering where the buses were, but that's just normal when an operation of this size shows up," says Team Alaska chef de mission John Estle.

There are a select few athletes who did manage to avoid the turmoil and trouble of air travel. The dog mushers and their teams had to make the five-day road trip from Anchorage to Yellowknife in two trucks. This was a logistical requirement. With four dog teams, thousands of pounds of gear and more than 20 bags of dog food, flying was not an option. Like all high performance athletes the dogs are on a special diet, and their food is ordered by mail. Even with the fancy dog chow coach Larisa Myers-McCoin likes to add a few extra ingredients to the feed, 15 ingredients to be exact.

'This is her nickname, 'Dr. Jekyl," says son and competitor Jonathan Biggerstaff-Myers.

Driving also gave the mushers a chance to tend to the dogs on a regular basis. They made regular stops every few hours to "drop" the dogs, not literally of course. "Dropping" refers to doggy rest stops and water breaks.

"It's just a health and welfare check," says coach Brenda They-

Tending to the dogs is a 24-hour job for these athletes.

"We pretty much had someone around and awake at all times of the night," Theyers says.

Myers-McCoin even spent a couple nights in the truck to make sure nothing happened to the canines. This may seem a bit paranoid, until you hear what happened late one night on the road.

"We had a couple truckers check the dog boxes and see if they were open," Myers-McCoin says. The attentive nature of the coaches and athletes paid off, and the dogs arrived ready and howling to hit the snow.

The mushers go to great lengths to keep their dog teams in prime condition, but this is not indicative of a cut-throat, win-atany cost attitude.

"I'm sure everybody here has stopped at some point [during a race] and helped a musher that's



Front row from left: Allison Ducker, Hannah Summers, Morgan Summers and Jonathan Biggerstaff-Myers. Back row from left: Debora Summers, Todd Whitcomb, Brenda Theyers and Larisa Myers-McCoin. The youth in the front are all competing in the dog mushing event. The athletes, coaches and handlers drove with the dog teams from Anchorage, Alaska, with the exception of Hannah and Allison whose school schedules forced them to fly.

lost a team," says coach Debora Summers.

It may not sound like much of a hindrance, but stopping to give a stranded musher a ride is a guaranteed loss according to these experts. The added weight of the extra body will slow the dogs down considerably. But as

Biggerstaff-Myers pointed out, sportsmanship is the their "top priority."

The outlook of the musher's is exemplary of Team Alaska's attitude to the Games.

"The goal of the team is not to win the ulu count. Much more important is to have good sports-

manship and be in contention for the Hodgson Award," says media liaison Matias Saari.

The attitude paid off at the 2006 Games. Alaska, which hosted the Games on the Kenai Peninsula, were the recipients of the award handed out to the most-sportsmanlike team at the Games.



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congratulate the athletes on the perseverance it takes to bring them to these Games. We extend our wishes for safe and healthy competition.

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### AROUND THE GAMES

# Volunteers make the Games

## 2,400 eventually registered to help out

by Jennifer McPhee

he Arctic Winter Games simply could not exist without volunteers.
Though many Yellowknifers waited until the last minute to get involved, they didn't disappoint in the end. Before Christmas, the list of committed volunteers hovered between 600 and 800, says Kathy Brown, co-director of volunteers and protocol. But after Christmas, hundreds more crawled out of the woodwork.

There are currently about 2,400 volunteers registered in the host society's database. The actual number of volunteers though is likely closer to 3,000 she said.

It must be something about the spirit of Northerners that makes them come forward at the last minute, says Brown. But one thing is certain: they never fail to eventually pull through. "Yellow-knifers see a need and they fill it," Brown adds. "That's what's so

The vast majority of volunteers are locals, but about 250 people arrived from outside the city to help make this year's Games fabulous. Some of them came from as far away as Greenland and Alaska.

Volunteer Joe Nava, from Alaska, has become something of an urban legend. He's been at every Arctic Winter Games since 1970, according to rumours. He is even said to have his own pin.

Not everyone realizes every single aspect of the Games is handled by volunteers; there are very few paid staff, says Brown. They're doing everything from working as referees to providing first response medical service.

Even kids younger than 12 are donating their time and energy this year. This process connects them with inspiring athletes and other volunteers who act as mentors and foster their volunteerism, says Jo Ann McGrath, also co-director of volunteers and protocol.

contribute at least 12 hours of their time. But many far exceed this requirement because they get so caught up in the games, says Brown.

Megan Elizabeth Shaben is helping out with soccer and basketball all week at Weledeh school. She shows people into the games, and makes sure they've got tickets.

"I didn't realize I'd be able to watch all the games," she says. So why did she decide to volunteer? "Truthfully, it was for the jacket," she admits.

#### **Giving back**

Karen Wright-Fraser signed up to volunteer at the Games ages ago because she wanted to give back, help out, get involved, and meet new people.

"It's good to see old friends from all over, and meet new ones," she says.

Wright-Fraser works at her regular job during the day, but spends her lunch hours helping with cultural performances at the



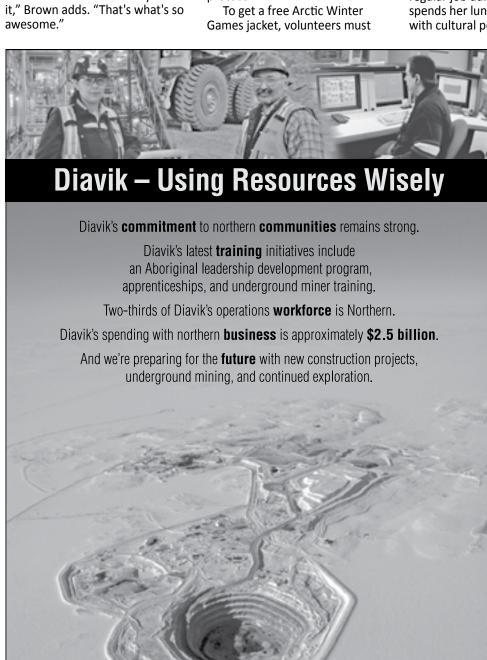
Host society co-directors of volunteers and protocol, Kathy Brown, left, and Jo Ann McGrath met in Grade 6 and started volunteering in high school.

Tree of Peace. At night, she lends a hand with Arctic sports at Ecole St. Joseph. As if that's not enough, she also designed and sewed an evening gown with beading and fur for a Games fashion show, and has six children (her kids are performing traditional jigging to fiddle music today).

Isn't she exhausted? Nope, she's a high-energy person.

"You're sort of tired after lunch, but when you are surrounded by all the people, you just get sort of energized," she says.

"Maybe by the end of the week, I'll be tired, but I doubt it."





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### ATHLETE PROFILE

# The reindeer connection

## NWT soccer player has Saami roots

by Lisa Sco

ith family roots to a Saami reindeer herder, it seems like Ben Beaudoin is playing for the

The 16-year-old Northwest
Territories soccer player plays left
wing for the junior male squad,
but his family ties are to the
Scandinavian region of the Saami.
His grandmother is a Laplander
who now lives in Inuvik. She made
the trip to the Games to see her
grandson play, with the added
bonus of seeing some competition
from her native Saami people.

The Yellowknife athlete is meeting people from the region for the first time. He checked out the girls soccer action as the Saami intermediate girls played Alaska Monday morning. The Saami, who entered a soccer team for the first time at these Games, defeated Alaska 5-4 in what was their opening game of the round-robin. Beaudoin wants to talk to the Saami team members, but says it may be a strange experience. If his grandmother joins him, he may be able to have a chat with Team Saami members, as she still speaks the language.

Beaudoin's uncle Lloyd Binder

has carried the family tradition of reindeer-herding to the NWT community of Inuvik, herding 3,000 of the animals for a living in the northern part of the territory in the Beaufort Delta. The animals were brought to the region in 1935 by the federal government from Alaska.

Rather than taking over the family business, Beaudoin has other aspirations in mind, like taking home the gold ulu for the junior indoor soccer team.

The NWT's juvenile male team is the defending champion, and the junior team enters competition this year with four members of the 2006 gold ulu juvenile team on the roster.

The team has matured and changed for these games and is facing tough competition from contingents they've never played before, such as Greenland and Yamal.

All eight of the team members are from Yellowknife, coming out of the two local clubs in town.

Beaudoin is the captain of the Yellowknife Fury Club. Trying out for the team in the fall was a tough process, but he was able to rise to the top and earn his spot on the team.

"I knew it was going to be tough. There were lots of contenders and tough competition," he says.

The team is taking a defensive strategy in these Games, according to coach Jack Simpson. In order to combat the offensive skills of teams like Greenland, Yamal and the Yukon, his squad must focus on giving up as few goals as possible

Simpson is depending on key players like Beaudoin and his sole defender Eric Tsetta, along with offensive player Jan Barbier to build momentum early.

The team took their first win against Nunavut on Monday morning, winning 7-1 during the first game of the round-robin. Goaltender Nathan Joy turned away multiple tries by Nunavut. Barbier provided a big dose of offence recording a hat trick, Justin Doyle put two away and Justin Le and Liam Coedy scored a goal apiece.

For Beaudoin, the Games are shaping up to be everything the legacy of the 2006 team promised, but it's still early in the competition. And, with the Saami girls playing in the same venue and maybe watching his games it makes the possibility of winning an ulu that much sweeter.

"It feels good. It's something more for me to prove," he says.



NWT Soccer player Ben Beaudoin has reindeer-herding roots.



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2008 Arctic Winter Games Issue 2, March 11, 2008 ULU NEWS 15

### ATHLETE PROFILE



From left: Sarah Antaya, Carl Antaya, Andy Tan and Pearl Tan. All are representing Team Alberta North in badminton. On top of the obvious family ties, these four athletes know each other well and have all been playing together for years

# All in the badminton family

### Brother and sister combos lead team Northern Alberta

by **Daniel T'seleie** 

t can be hard to get along with siblings, sometimes you can't even stand being in the same room.

Four badminton players from Team Alberta North know this story better than most.

"There's always a little bit of sibling rivalry," says Pearl Tan. "You have your screaming matches."

Pearl, 17, her brother Andy, 15, and siblings Carl and Sarah Antaya, 18 and 16 respectively, are all from Grande Prairie, Alta. and have brought their birdie-bashing badminton skills to competition in Yellowknife, NWT.

Badminton runs in the family for all these athletes. "Our parents actually met playing badminton," Sarah says. Andy and Pearl's parents also play, and used to be their

Sibling squabbles aside, the family and community ties may actually help the players in competition. The other four badminton players on Team Alberta North are from Fort McMurray, Grimshaw and Widewater, and this geographic dispersement makes training difficult. "It's really hard to get together as a team," Pearl says. The badminton team had only one opportunity to join up and train prior to the Games.

Fortunately, these four athletes have all been practising together in Grande Prairie for almost nine years, and will bring this experience onto the court.

Pearl and Sarah are playing together in the junior female doubles competition, and Carl

There's always a little bit of sibling rivalry.

and Sarah will be complementing each other's skills in the junior mixed doubles competition, which requires special strategy and teamwork.

The rules are the same in both, but in un-mixed doubles the players will switch between covering

the front and rear of the court, whereas in mixed doubles the male always stays back.

"It's just different strategically, everything else is the same," Pearl says.

Andy, the youngest of the four, is in the juvenile division and will not be competing with the other Grande Prairie players, but this doesn't bother him. "I'm fine with it," Andy says. He's still got his friends and family close by for support, and they are closer than you might think. With male and female athletes sleeping in different lodgings the group took an interesting step to stay in touch.

"We bought walkie talkies so we can communicate," Carl said.

Maybe he was just pulling this reporter's leg, Pearl thinks so. The walkie talkies were news to her

as well, and she remained unconvinced. "They lie to me a lot, so I don't know what to believe."

Of the four, Sarah is the only one who is not a returning AWG athlete, but they are all excited to be here. They routinely play tournaments in Alberta, but the competition is fierce and repetitive.

"Those are tougher," Andy says, citing Edmonton as one of the better teams.

All four enjoy the opportunity to come somewhere new and compete against athletes who are not regulars on the Alberta badminton circuit. Seeing some new sights and meeting some new people is always fun, but this group is here to play badminton in the hopes of bringing home an ulu or two.

"We're going to go for it," Sarah says.

### **GAMES** Talk

Which Team
has the best looking
jacket at this year's
Arctic Winter Games?



Caitlyn Pyke, 15, NWT, hockey We do! We have mixed colours and designs.



**Sydney Starks, 12, Alaska, figure skating**Yamal, because they have a really cool scarf.



Colin Crockatt, 14, Nunavut, hockey Nunavik...Their jacket has a nice design, good logo and the fur on the hood is nice.



Aimee Wallan, 14, Alberta, hockey

Definitely NWT. I want one so bad! I like the light blue and that they're not plain at all.



Claire Kiemele, 18, Yukon, Speed skating

Nunavik. I really like the fur on the collar and because I'm an animal fanatic, I like the owl in the logo. **16 ULU NEWS** Issue 2, March 11, 2008 2008 Arctic Winter Games



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