

ULU NEWS



A special publication of the Fort McMurray Today

March 1, 2004

Albertan sets
new record in
snow snake

...11

N.W.T goaltender
stands on his
head in loss

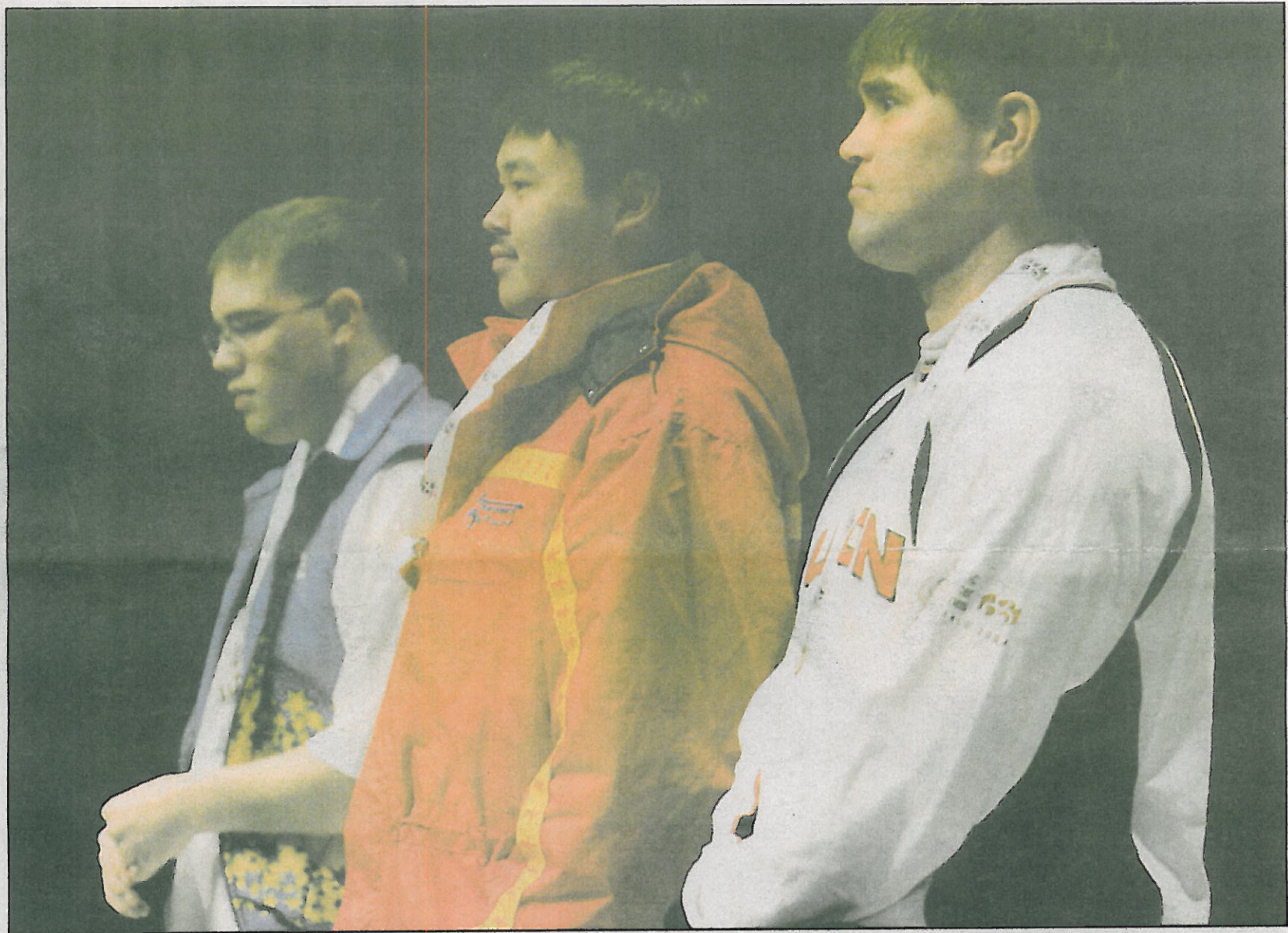
...10

Collision leaves
athlete grateful
for every day

...4

Medal standings

...19



Fort McMurray
Today

FIRST MEDALS — Snow snake bronze medalist Kaare Erickson of Team Alaska, gold medalist Damien Qaunaq of Team Nunavut, and silver medalist Darius Elias of Team Yukon (left to right) have the honour of standing on the medal podiums as the Canadian national anthem was played at the first medal ceremony of the 2004 Arctic Winter Games. The ceremony, held Sunday afternoon at the Keyano College Theatre, presented the ulus for the open male snow snake competition of the Dene Games.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

we love the winters here

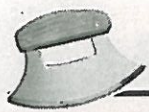
SUNCOR
ENERGY

ooooh
look how
high they
can kick

we **love** the winters here Suncor. Proud sponsor of the 2004 Arctic Winter Games.



SUNCOR
ENERGY

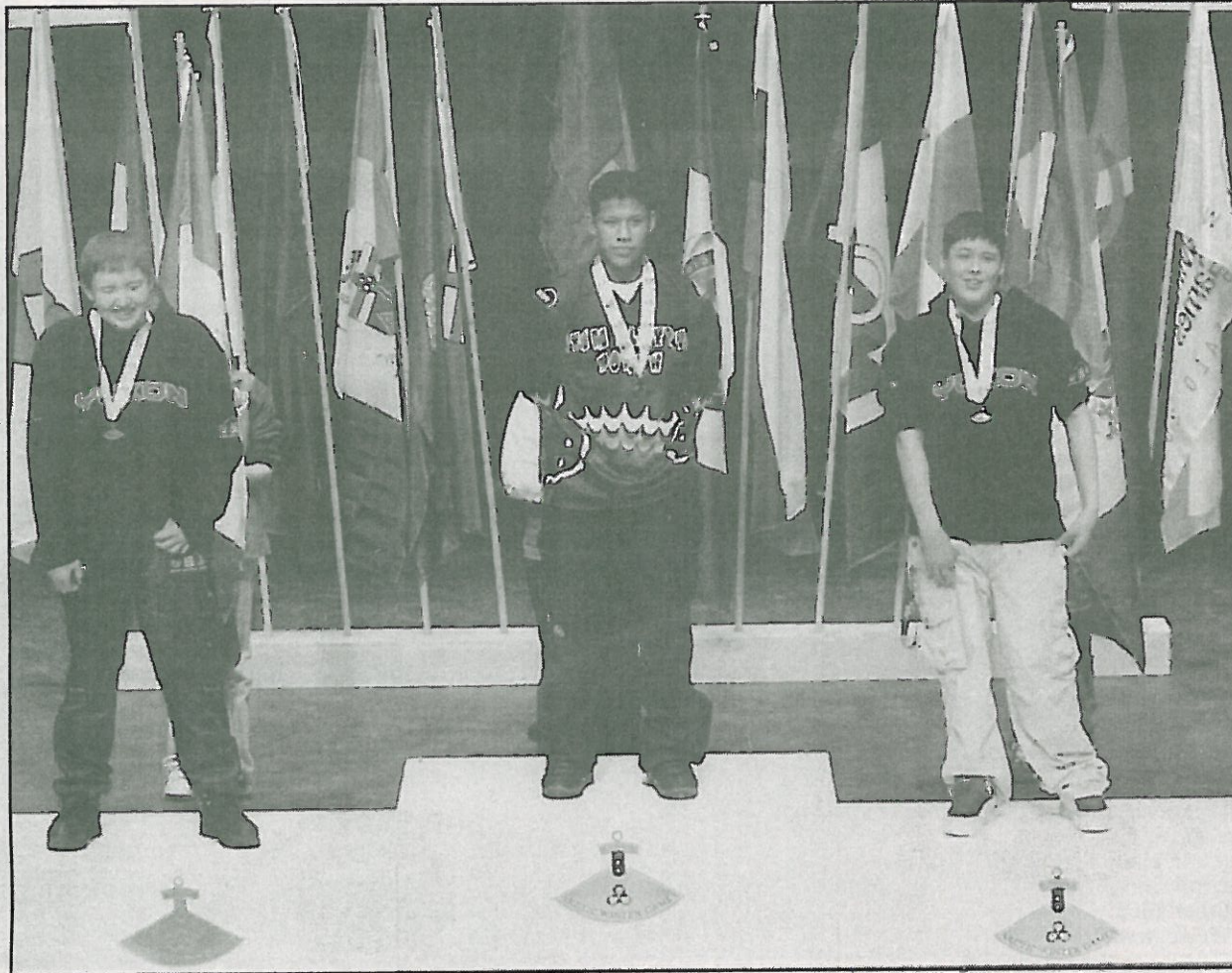


Fort McMurray Today

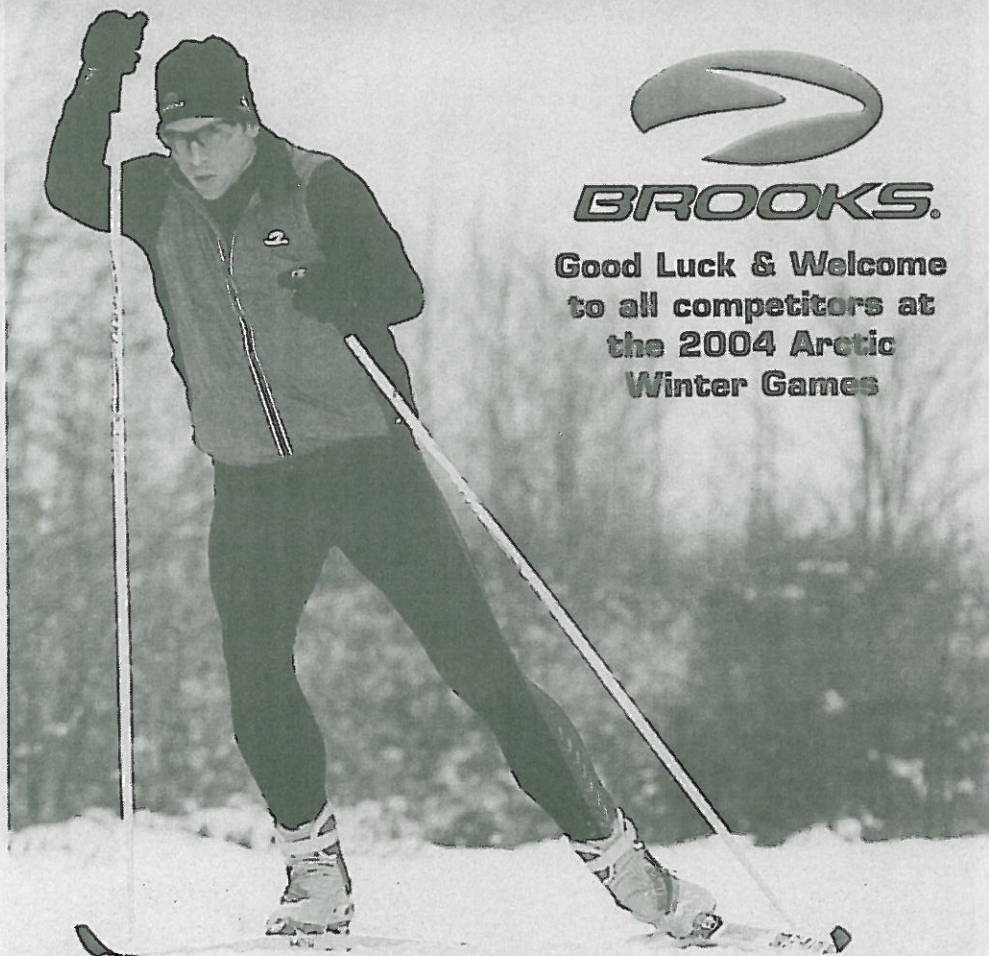
Tim O'Rourke publisher
Michael Hall managing editor
Daren Gawron sales manager
Daniel MacEachern editor

How to reach us

The Ulu News is published by Sun Media Corporation — a Quebecor Company — at 8550 Franklin Ave., P.O. Bag 4008, Fort McMurray, Alta., T9H 3G1.



THE BEST OF THE BEST — Snow snake bronze medalist Blake Lepine of Team Yukon, gold medalist Jeremiah St. Arnault of Team Alberta North, and silver medalist Kyle Benjamin of Team Yukon stand for the Canadian national anthem after receiving their medals for the junior males snow snake competition of the Dene Games during the medal ceremony held Sunday afternoon at the Keyano College Theatre. St. Arnault set a new record in the snow snake. See story on Page 11. Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News



BROOKS.

Good Luck & Welcome to all competitors at the 2004 Arctic Winter Games

Brooks, a proud sponsor of Canada's National X-Country Ski Team and the 2004 Arctic Winter Games

ESS Support Services Worldwide

FIRST NORTH CATERING logo featuring a fish.

FIRST NORTH CATERING
Box 4010, Fort McMurray, AB. T0H 3L2
Tel: (780) 713-4300 Fax: (780) 713-4376

SUPPORTING THE 2004 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES IN OUR COMMUNITY!



WELCOMING ALL PARTICIPANTS TO OUR CITY...



Collision makes athlete grateful for life

By JEFF KORENKO
Ulu News

Matt Kostiuk may have a greater appreciation for what a privilege it is to be in Fort McMurray this week than anyone else involved in these Arctic Winter Games.

The setter from Grande Prairie on Alberta North's junior male volleyball squad is lucky to be alive, let alone have the capability to help his team defend its Games' title when their tournament kicked off Sunday.

So, looking a little silly by wearing a helmet on the court is of little consequence to him.

Please see 'Injuries'/Page 5



Team Alberta North volleyball player Matt Kostiuk displays his tools for the court at the 2004 Arctic Winter Games. Kostiuk will be seen on the volleyball court wearing a helmet, a precaution he takes following the accident in October 2003.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News



CBC LIVE WIRE

Share your thoughts and show us your smile

CBC Livewire – hear yourself on CBC Radio One or on cbc.ca.

Drop by the CBC kiosk and try out our new, interactive, all-in-one talkback, audioemail and webcam mobile unit.

It's now easier to speak your mind and be heard on CBC Radio and cbc.ca.

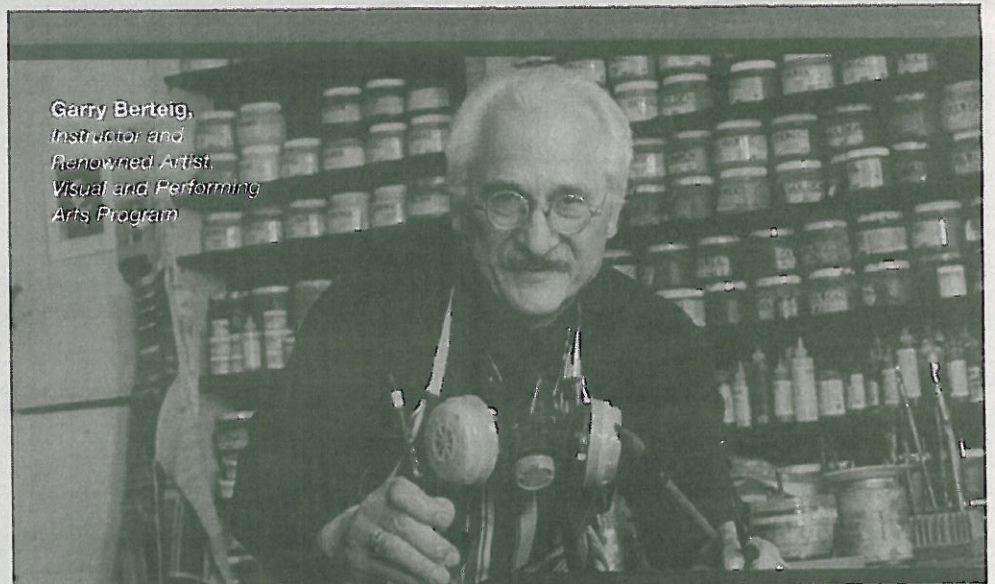
CBC North Kiosk
CA Knight Recreation Centre
151 MacDonald Avenue
10:00 am - 6:00 pm
every day during the games.




CBC North – Official Broadcaster of the 2004 Arctic Winter Games

cbclivewire.ca

Garry Berteig,
Instructor and
Renowned Artist,
Visual and Performing
Arts Program



discover
your future

@ keyano college

Whether your interest is visual art and design, drama or music performance, Keyano College has a dynamic group of professional instructors and first class facilities that will help craft and develop your skills in the arts. Discover your future @ Keyano College by calling 791-4801 to enrol today.

www.keyano.ca

8115 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray AB T9H 2H7
Tel: (780) 791-4800 or toll-free 1-800-251-1408



Injuries leave Kostiuk battling fatigue

Cont'd from Page 4.

Kostiuk must don protective head gear because he sustained a serious brain injury — along with broken bones and soft tissue trauma — when he, 10 of his teammates on the St. Joseph's Celtics volleyball team and their coach were returning from a tournament in Fort St. John, B.C., in early October and their van was smashed into by a drunk driver.

The van was hit by a pickup that crossed the centre line of the Alaska Highway, causing a horrific impact that sent both vehicles into the ditch, where the van rolled four times.

All of the students and their coach were taken to hospital, with Kostiuk and

teammate Wesley Sullivan suffering life-threatening injuries.

A Fort St. John man was finally charged Feb. 12 with six counts of impaired driving causing bodily harm, six counts of dangerous driving causing bodily harm and one count of operating a vehicle with a blood-alcohol level of over 0.08 per cent.

Sullivan, a close friend of Kostiuk, was also expecting to compete in these games prior to the near-tragic incident. Although he too is recovering well, it could be some time before he gains medical clearance to play competitive volleyball.

While Kostiuk's bones and deep bruises have healed enough to allow

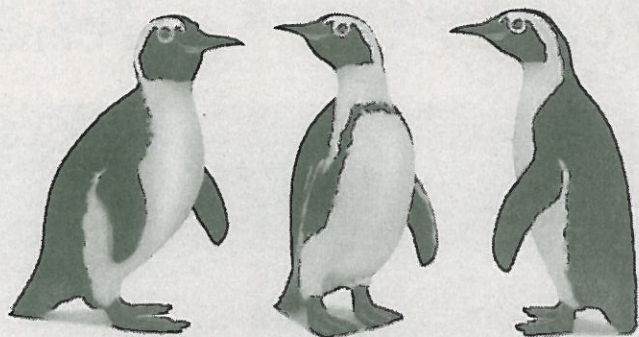
him to return to the sport he loves, the damage done to his brain has left him battling fatigue.

By 6 p.m., he said, he's fighting his urge to rest and he usually ends up crashing a couple of hours later.

However, Kostiuk doesn't expect that to keep him from contributing to any success Alberta North has this week, he related prior to a team practice at Westwood Community high school Sunday.

"I thought I would be pretty tired, but this kind of opportunity only presents itself once every two years and you may only get to go once or twice," he said.

Please see 'No memory'/Page 6



Proud sponsor of the 2004 Arctic Winter Games.

TELUS
the future is friendly®

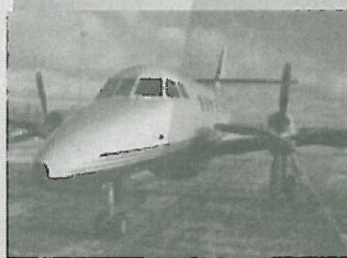
Air Mikisew

Fort McMurray's
Edmonton City Centre
Connector

24-hr Dispatch 1-888-268-7112

Reservations 1-800-268-7112

Beat the Road in a
Twin Turbine Pres-
sured Jetstream
31. Make yourself at
home in the Widest
Commuter Aircraft
in its Class!



Borealis Air Service

Esso Authorized:
**Aviation
FUEL DEALER**
Call: 790-0270 or
Afterhours: 799-6814

Charters are available any-
where, anytime. From 5 to 19
seats we can transport your
passengers and freight! Call us
at 1-888-268-7112 for a Quote
today!

SHOW YOUR PRIDE

WITH O' CANADA GEAR

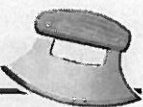
Bandanas Necklaces Tattoos
Zipper Pulls Mittens Scarves
& Much Much More!!!

SUPPORT LOCAL
ATHLETES IN THE 2004
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

All That **Jazz**

Main Level, Peter Pond Shopping Centre 743-1206





No memory of accident

Cont'd from Page 5.

"I'm hoping to contribute as much as a can, but it's up to the coach to determine how much I play based on how well I do," said Kostiuk.

Kostiuk said he remembers absolutely nothing about what happened that fateful day.

The last thing he could recall prior to waking up in an Edmonton hospital was leaving the gymnasium in Fort St. John.

He mentioned that it's probably best that way.

"I have no recall, so the accident hasn't done too much damage emotionally," Kostiuk said.

What it has done is given him the gift of accepting that as a youngster, he may have taken too much of his life for granted.

"After what happened, I think of everything differently and look at every situation a different way.

Everything I encounter in my life seems to be viewed from a different perspective now," Kostiuk said.

As for the helmet, Kostiuk wore it in a tournament in Red Deer recently and he said it wasn't much of a problem.

It didn't hinder his peripheral vision on the court and he had merely one person come up to him and ask him about it.

"I was thinking it was going to feel heavy, but it's hard to even notice once you get playing," he said with a chuckle.

Kostiuk may not be completely out of the woods yet, but the way he has managed to overcome so much in such a short period of time could be an inspiration to his teammates, should they find themselves in a hole in any match this week, agreed coach Mike Lauzon.

"Matt's one of those guys you want because of

his leadership ability and his competitive nature. We were worried about not having him this year, so when we heard he got the green light, it meant everything to us," Lauzon said.

He added he expects Kostiuk to garner about half the setting duties this week.

"His energy seems to get better every single week. It's an endurance issue with him right now, but as we'll only be playing one or two matches a day, he should be fine," Lauzon said.

Winning a gold ulu would make a wonderful replacement for a memory Kostiuk is glad he doesn't have.

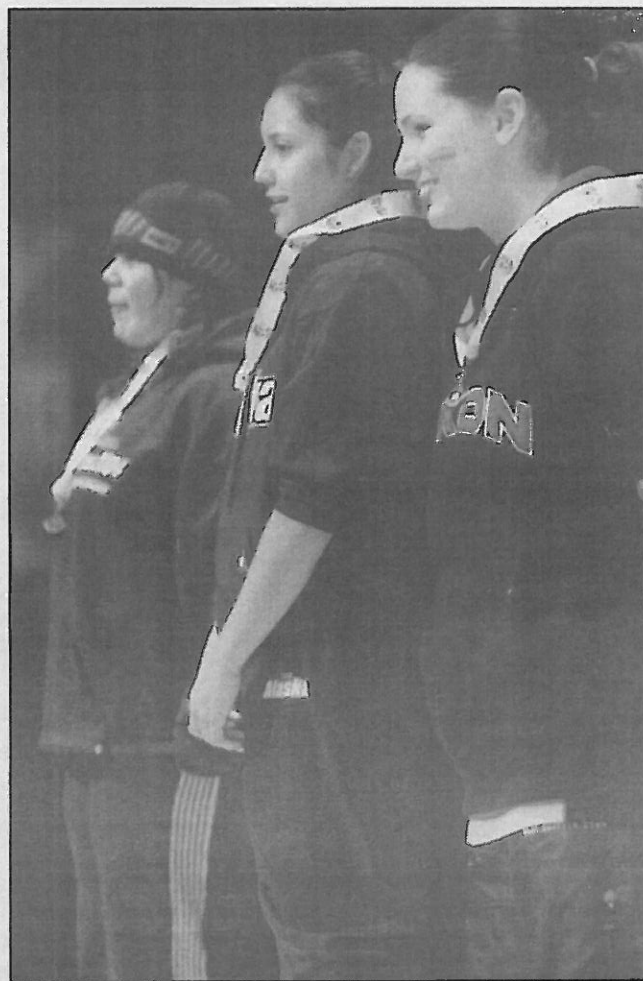
Even if things don't turn out that way for he and his Alberta teammates, you know Kostiuk will still be glad to be here.

And, this time, there's nothing cliché about that statement.

FIRST TIME'S A CHARM

— Bronze medalist Antonia Dryneck of Team N.W.T., gold medalist Julia Ramoth of Team Alaska, and silver medalist Christy Dupuis of Team Yukon (left to right) receive the first ever medals to women in the snow snake event of the Dene Games. The ceremony held Sunday afternoon at the Keyano College Theatre proudly presented the medals to the 2004 Arctic Winter Games junior female snow snake winners, emphasizing that this is the first time women have participated in the event as part of the Arctic Winter Games.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE,
Ulu News



120 Hours of News Coverage • 20 Hours Live On-Location • 96 Arctic Features

Hourly Updated Results • 2 Huge Concert Ceremonies

NEW 93.3 CJOK
COUNTRY

mcmurray.com

KIX
98 FM

If we spent any more time at
the games they'd make us
compete!!

8 Hours of Overtime Presentations • 54 Live Reports

3 Cultural Concert Performances • Standings for the Over 300 Local Athletes



Canadian Heritage
Patrimoine canadien

The Heart of Canada

Each year, more than eight million Canadians participate in sport as athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers.

We wish to thank all of you who have worked so hard to make the Arctic Winter Games such a success.

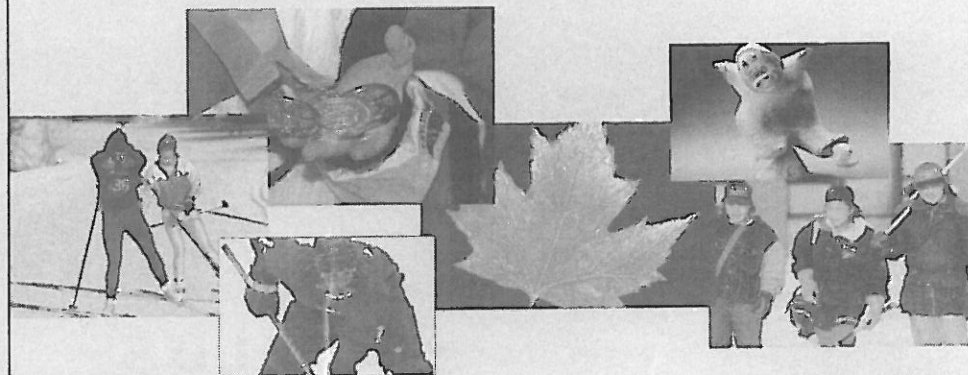
For more information on Canadian Heritage programs and services, visit:
www.canadianheritage.gc.ca

Le cœur du Canada

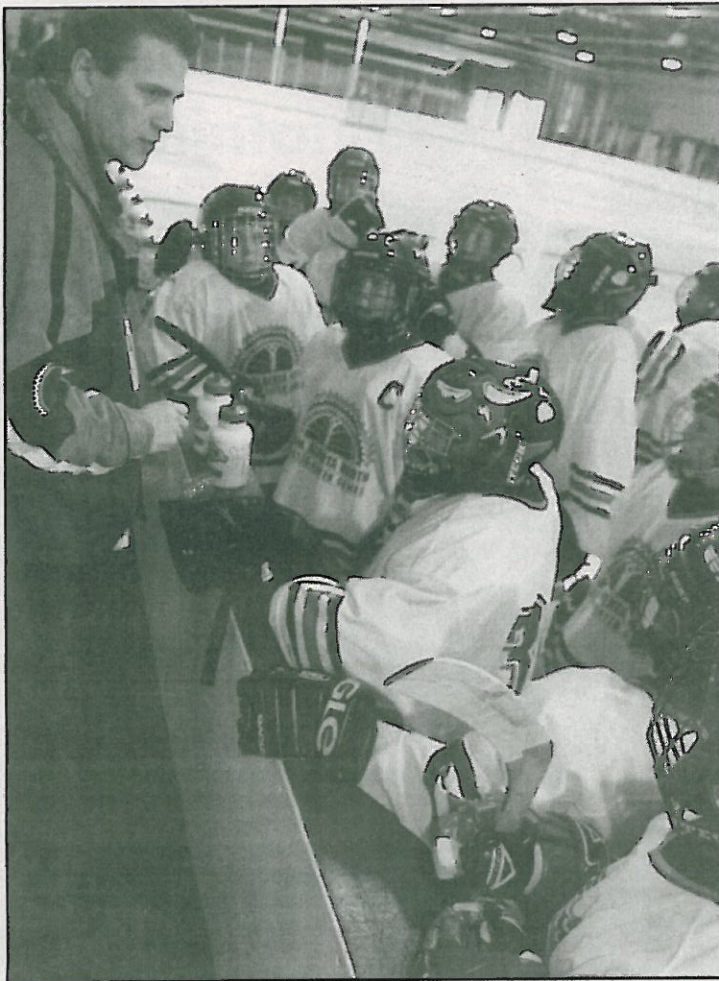
Chaque année, plus de huit millions de Canadiens et de Canadiennes s'investissent dans le sport en tant qu'athlètes, entraîneurs, officiels et bénévoles.

Nous tenons à remercier tous ceux et celles qui ont travaillé à la réussite exceptionnelle des Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique.

Pour plus de renseignements sur les programmes et services du ministère du Patrimoine canadien, veuillez consulter : www.patrimoinecanadien.gc.ca



Canada



READY FOR ACTION — Team Alberta North coach Ken Vreeling speaks to his team moments before their game against Team N.W.T. Sunday afternoon on the ice surface at the C.A. Knight recreational complex on MacDonald Island. The words of encouragement and reminder for the need to play as a team served the boys well, with Team Alberta North winning the game 8-0. Story on Page 10. Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

KODIAK

Fitness Centre

(A division of 642764 Alberta Ltd.)

Proud Supporter
of the 2004 Arctic
Winter Games

DROP-INS WELCOME
Special Rates for Out-of-Town
Visitors during the Games

- Treadmills/Bikes/Steppers/Rowers/Elliptical Cross Trainers
- Large Selection of Freeweights/Machines
- Delicious (& healthy) Juice/Protein Shakes & Supplements
- Fitness Clothing & Accessories
- TANNING SALON/Tanning Lotions & Accessories
- Personal Trainer/Training Programs
- Fitness Classes/Seminars/Specialty Clinics

10011b Franklin Avenue
(Downtown across from Dominos)

791-6500











The Management and staff of Tuccaro Inc. would like to extend our congratulations to the organizers, athletes and all coaching staff involved in the 2004 Arctic Winter Games.

We are proud to have been provided the opportunity to sponsor and support amateur sport in the region.

Dave Tuccaro
President & CEO



H. Wilson Industries Ltd.

General Contractors

Locally owned and operated.

- PAVING
- EXCAVATION
- GRAVEL SUPPLY
- HEAVY HAULING
- EQUIPMENT RENTALS
- SEWER & WATER INSTALLATIONS



Audience gets a kick out of Arctic sports

By MAX MAUDIE
Ulu News

■ 'It's all or nothing'

Over 300 people crammed into Fort McMurray's composite high school gym Sunday afternoon for the kickoff of the fan favourite Arctic sports.

The kneel jump led off the week. The event sees contestants lunge forward from a kneeling position. Contestants must show control and balance, and they must stick their landing with both feet. Jumpers have thrust themselves over 60 inches.

Often, contestants' knees are bloodied and bandaged by the third and final round.

Going into the third jump of the boys' junior event, team Northwest Territories' Byron

Okheena, 16, had only a fraction of an inch lead on Magadan's 17-year-old Iliya Kushch. That meant he had a fraction of an inch hold on gold. Fifty-one inches was the jump to beat.

Okheena had nothing to lose; he could taste a first-place finish.

"I'm going all out," he said, watching the other jumpers stab at his grasp on gold.

Kushch, on the other side of the gym, was focusing on gold as well. Through an interpreter, he echoed Okheena.

"I'll put myself (in the zone) to win. It's all or nothing."

Up first, Okheena was focused and set to make

good on his plan.

He had a good jump but his feet slipped on his landing.

One by one, other competitors took jumps at his mark. One by one, they came up short.

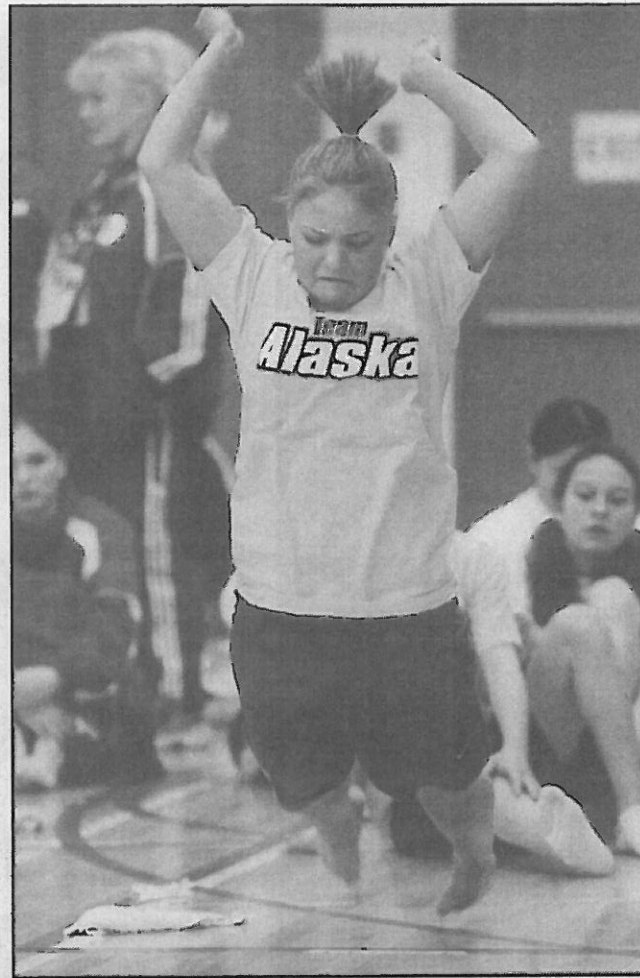
Kushch knelt at the line. Arms swinging, eyes piercing the air in front of him, he may have been in that zone.

But his landing was off. His legs came out beside him on takeoff, giving him a little more push. This is a common mistake.

No one else could beat Okheena's mark.

First place was announced, and Okheena was beside himself.

"I feel so great right now," he beamed.



Shanda Ring of Team Alaska gets a mighty push off the ground while competing in the traditional Arctic sport of kneel jump Sunday at the Arctic Winter Games.

Photo by CARL PATZEL,
Ulu News

McRays Classic Café & Gino's Pub

606 Signal Road - Across from the Y.M.C.A.

McRays Classic Café Welcomes Arctic Winter Games Participants

McRays is a casual family dining restaurant & lounge centrally located in Thickwood

10 Reasons Why You Should Check Us Out

1. Mondays All U Can Eat Spaghetti & Salad Bar \$8
2. Tuesdays 2 for 1 Fish & Chips \$9
3. Wednesdays Wing Ding Wednesday - Wings .25 each
4. Thursdays 2 for 1 Burgers \$8
5. Sunday Brunch 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
6. Kids Menu Available
7. Breakfast is Served all Day & Night
8. Daily Drink Specials
9. Happy Hour 4 - 6 pm
10. We Can Accommodate Large Parties

*We have a large smoking and non-smoking section
Come on in and see us and we guarantee we will
give you 10 more reasons to come back
Give us a call 791-1135*



As a strong supporter of Canada's Olympians and amateur sport, Petro-Canada is proud to provide office space and support to the 2004 Arctic Winter Games Host Society.





CROWD WATCHING
 — Governor General Adrienne Clarkson bundles up while watching traditional Dene games Sunday at the Arctic Winter Games. She joined local McMurrayites, like 10-year-old Dylan Brown, who packed venues to see the contest.
 Photo by CARL PATZEL, Ulu News

**WE WELCOME ALL
 2004 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES
 VISITORS & PARTICIPANTS!**

*Thank you to all the wonderful
 volunteers of our region.*

**COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY
 & PAPERWORKERS UNION
 LOCAL 707**

Representing workers at Suncor Energy,
 Transwest Mining, TransAlta Energy,
 Northern Lights Regional Health Centre (Support),
 California Palace Bingo and Best Cleaners.



201-10020 Franklin Ave., Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K6
 Ph: (780) 743-3933 Fax: (780) 743-4469
 e-mail: cep.707@shawcable.com website: www.cep707.ca

Celebrate the Arctic spirit!



Photograph by Cathie Archibald

As a major sponsor of the 2004 Arctic Winter Games and as the longest-standing corporate supporter of the Canadian Olympic Team, RBC Financial Group™ brings the RBC Olympic FanFair to Wood Buffalo.

Celebrate the spirit of excellence, teamwork and fun at this interactive multi-sport pavilion for the whole family. Try your hand at hockey, curling, speed skating, luge, sledge hockey or even the biathlon. Sign a good luck banner for our athletes heading to Athens this summer. It's all waiting for you at the RBC Olympic FanFair.

**RBC Olympic FanFair at the
 C.A. Knight Recreation Centre
 February 29 to March 6 — 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Get in the spirit! Get in on the fun!



Supporting Olympic Dreams since 1947



N.W.T. goaltender stands tall in face of Albertan onslaught

■ 50 shots stopped in losing cause

By JEFF KORENKO
Ulu News

Battered, bruised and beaten eight times, Northwest Territories netminder Kyle Hodges was still all smiles following his Arctic Winter Games debut versus Alberta North Sunday.

And why wouldn't he be, after stopping 50 shots against a team regarded as a strong contender for the gold ulus in peewee hockey?

While the territory could muster merely seven shots at his Alberta North counterpart Braden Gurtler-Gamble at the other end of the C.A. Knight Recreation Centre rink, 12-year-old Hodges made sensational save after sensational save to keep his team from being completely humiliated yesterday afternoon.

Alberta North got three goals from captain Darren Kramer, a pair from Kyle Campbell and singles by Bond Hawryluk, Ty Price and T.J. Foster in what was an 8-0 victory, but the spotlight was definitely stolen by Hodges, who allowed only two pucks to get by him in the first 30 minutes.

In Arctic Winter Games peewee hockey, that's two periods.

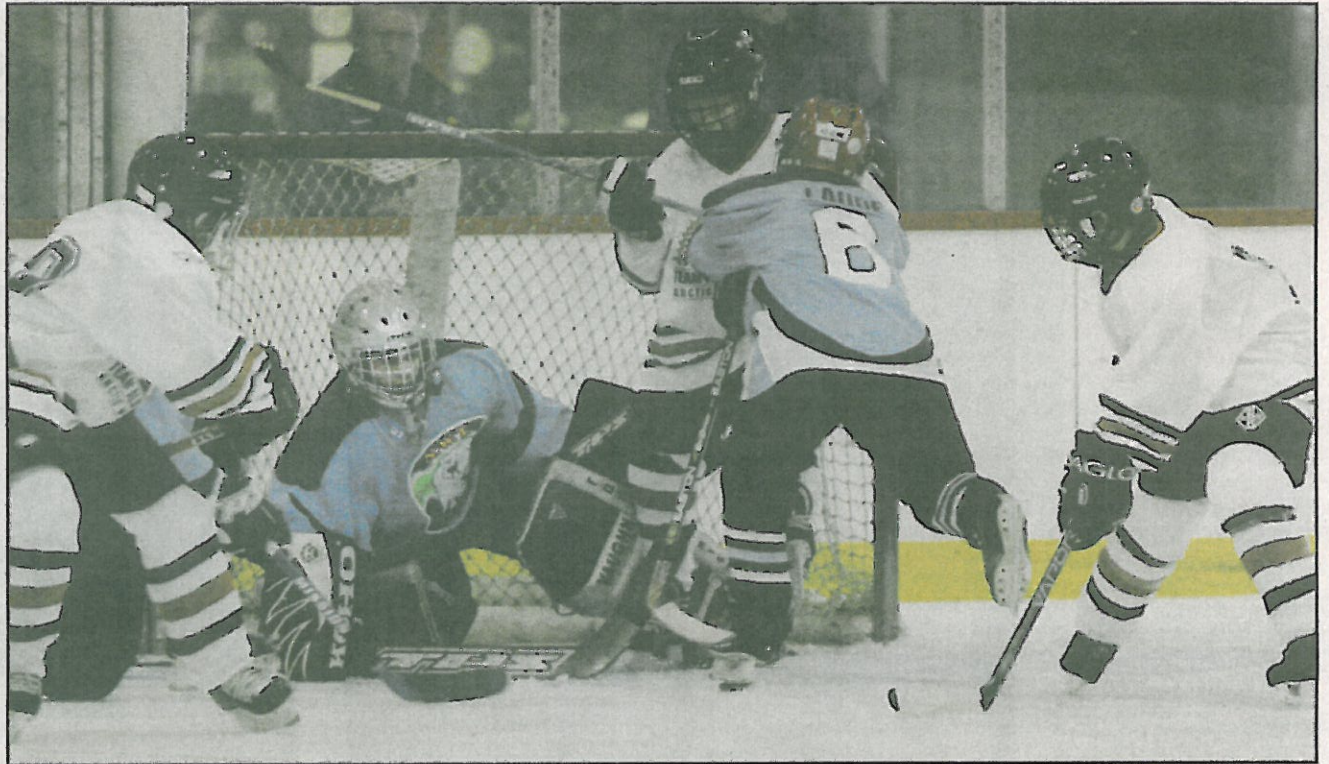
He had already stopped 31 shots at that point.

"Alberta played really well," Hodges, who has only been playing hockey for four years, offered with a shy smile after the game.

He added that he had no idea what he was in for before the game began.

"Not at all," was his simple answer to whether he expected to see and stop that many shots.

Please see 'Team'/
Page 12



Northwest Territories goalie Kyle Hodges makes yet another members of Team Alberta North try to push the puck past him during the Sunday afternoon game at the C.A. Knight Recreation Centre on MacDonald Island. Despite Hawryluk's amazing effort Team Alberta North won the game 8-0.

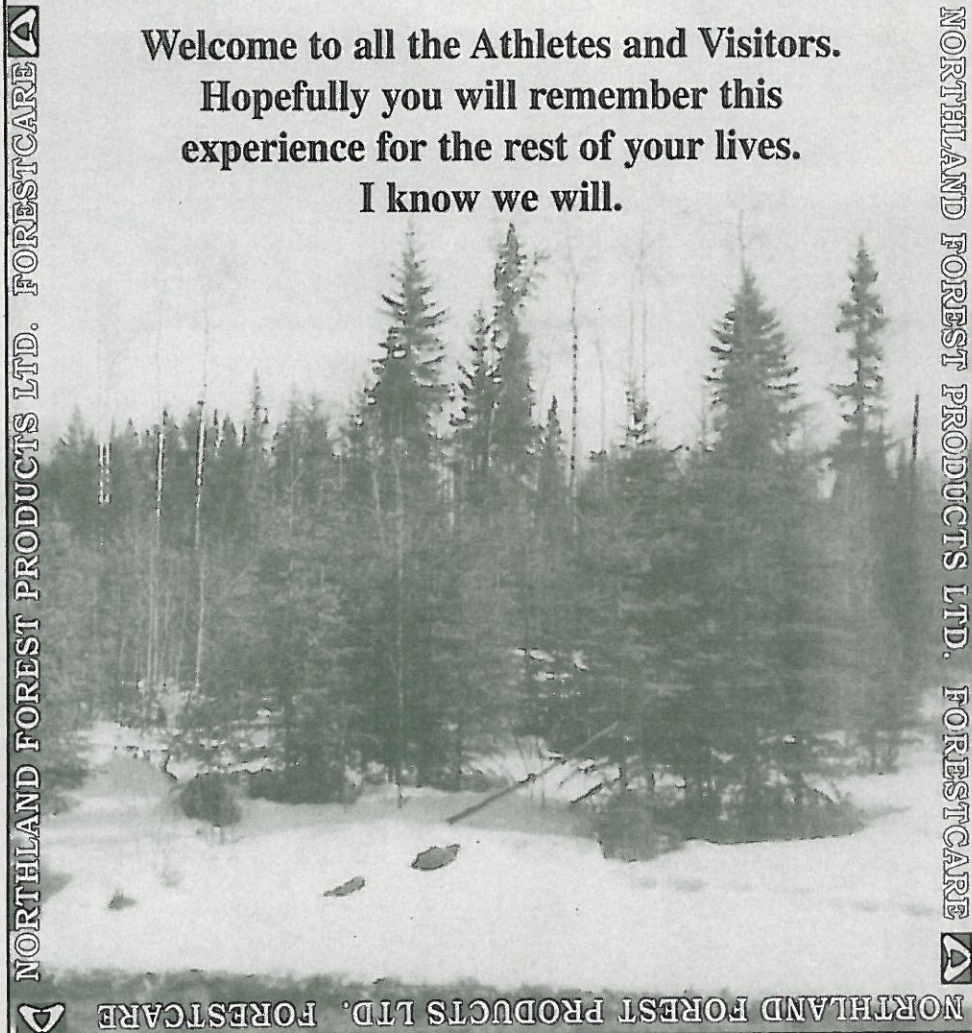
Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News.

NORTHLAND FOREST PRODUCTS LTD. FORESTCARE

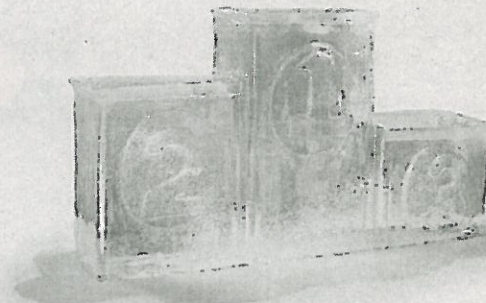
Welcome to all the Athletes and Visitors.

Hopefully you will remember this
experience for the rest of your lives.

I know we will.



Toques off
to all
participants.



Proudly supporting the coolest games on earth. **Syncrude**
Securing Canada's Energy Future

The Syncrude Project is a joint venture operated by Syncrude Canada Ltd. and owned by Canadian Oil Sands Limited Partnership, Canadian Oil Sands Limited, ConocoPhillips Oilsands Partnership II, Imperial Oil Resources, Mocal Energy Limited, Murphy Oil Company Ltd., Nexen Inc., and Petro-Canada Oil and Gas.

Albertan breaks snow snake record

By **MAX MAUDIE**
Ulu News

Team Alberta's Jeremiah St. Arnault set a junior boys' snow snake record Sunday in taking home the event's golden ulu.

The 16-year-old threw a personal best of 313 feet, a long toss from the previous junior record of just over 268 feet.

The snow snake is a Dene event. Competitors launch a spear underhand along the surface of a lane of snow. Traditionally, the game was used to hone small-prey hunting skills.

The record didn't fall easily. St. Arnault was a lit-

tle nervous on his first throw at Corless Field, just next to the composite high school.

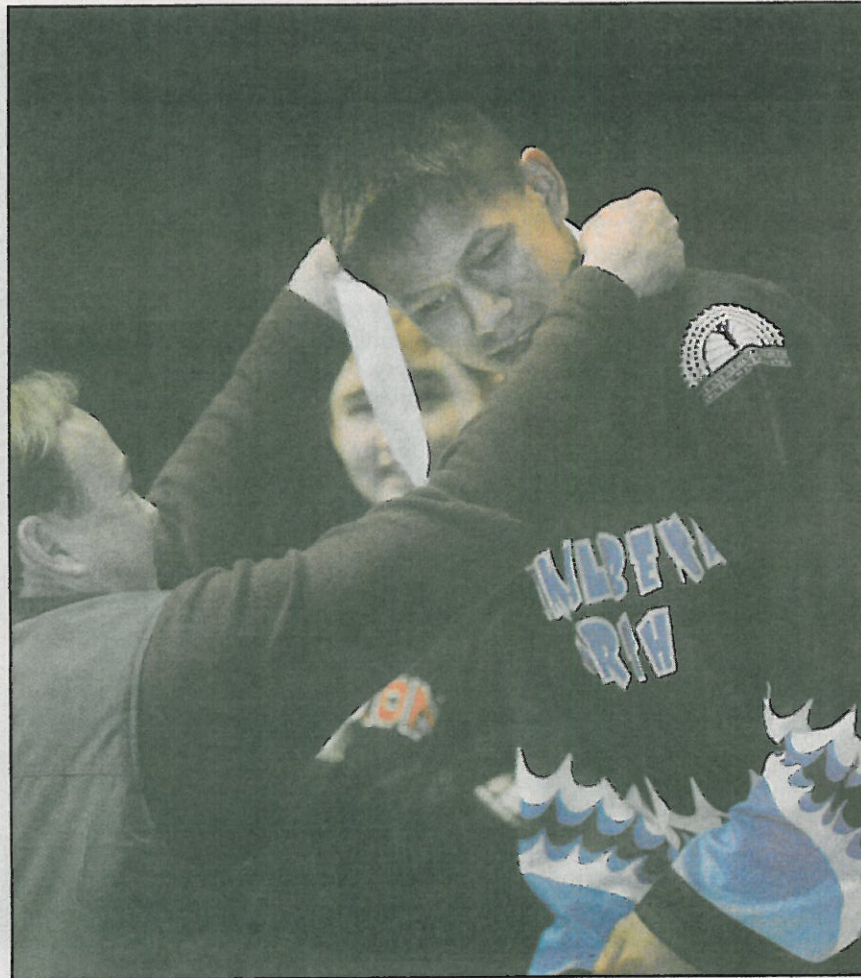
"(The snake) only went about four feet," he chuckled.

After the record-setting toss, St. Arnault had to watch as other competitors took stabs at his mark.

Team Yukon's Kyle Benjamin had a good toss, and St. Arnault looked concerned as he waited for the final measurement.

When it came in at just over 307 feet, he was relieved.

"I feel pretty good," the record-setter said. "I tried my best."



Snow snake junior males gold medalist **Jeremy Arrault** of Team Alberta North receives the gold ulu after setting a Dene games snow snake record with a throw 313 feet 8 inches during the earlier competition. The medal was presented by Suncor Director **Bryan Davies** on Sunday at the Keyano College Theatre.

Photo by **TAMARRA PRICE**, Ulu News.

The Oil Sands Discovery Centre Welcomes the 2004 Arctic Winter Games

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

My Name is Nanuq:
The Diary of a Polar Bear



Canadian Museum of **NATURE** Musée canadien de la

Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

Oil Sands Discovery Centre

Alberta
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Location
Junction of Hwy. 63 and
MacKenzie Blvd.,
Fort McMurray
Phone: 310-0000
or direct: (780) 743-7167

Hours
10 am - 4 pm
Admission is charged

www.oilsandsdiscovery.com
E-mail: osdc@gov.ab.ca

Visit the Discovery Shop

Oil Sands Gifts • Science Games • Souvenirs

10% Off

On all items
from Feb. 28th
to March 6th

The community comes together at ATCO Plaza

ATCO Plaza - home of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, medal presentations, concerts and cultural events during the 2004 Arctic Winter Games.

ATCO is committed to enriching the quality of life in every community we serve. Our tradition of community investment stretches back nearly a century and Albertans can count on our commitment for many more years to come.

Your community. Our commitment. **ATCO GROUP**



Team frustrated by goaltending

Cont'd from Page 10

"Alberta crashes the net pretty hard and they made it hard for me to see the puck at times. They are a good team."

While there were too many highlight reel denials to be mentioned here, a couple of Hodges' best came in the second frame.

The game was scoreless 1:24 into the middle period when Campbell cut in off the left wing and tried to get Hodges down by waiting him out as he crossed the goal mouth.

As someone named Hasek, Hodges got his left pad up while sprawled flat on his back.

With Alberta up merely 1-0 with 3:15 remaining, forward Joel Pelletier already had his stick up in celebration as his shot from just in front of the crease seemed destined to hit mesh before Hodges flipped over and lunged with his stick in the air to keep the biscuit out.

"That was my favourite one," he declared.

Alberta outshot the territory 18-4 in the second.

After an opening period in which Alberta outshot the N.W.T. 15-2, the province got the only goal they would need 1:49 into the second, when Campbell beat Hodges cleanly to the far side with a wrister from the bottom of the right circle.

The N.W.T. trailed only 2-0 when Hodges shut the door on Kramer on a clear cut breakaway from the far blue line with 20 ticks left in the period.

"He had an awesome game. We really thought he had our number there for awhile and the kids were starting to get frustrated with all the missed opportunities," said Alberta North head coach Ken Vreeling.

"We tried to calm them down a bit and tell them to keep shooting the puck. But (Hodges) had an awe-

some game, no doubt about it.

"He stood in there and stood his ground and wasn't intimidated at all, I didn't think."

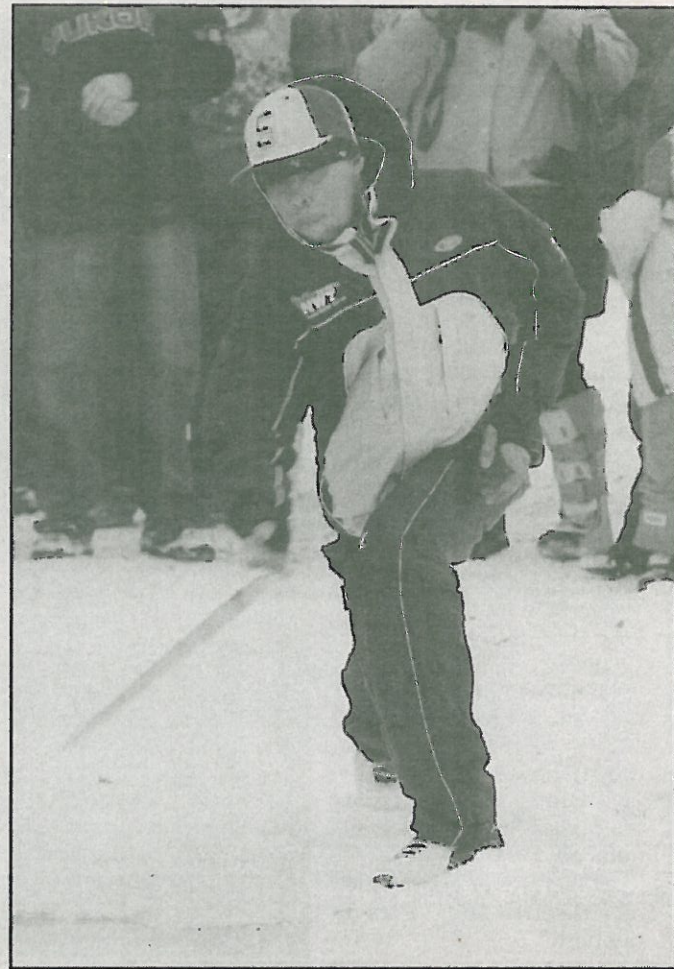
With 1:55 left to go in the contest, Hodges had to come out of the game after taking a blistering point-blank drive from Alberta rearguard Chase Helgesen between the bottom of the chest protector and the top of his pants.

Hodges said afterward he felt a little stiff but would be fine.

The opening game for both teams was a hard-hitting but clean affair, as only four minor penalties were called — three to Alberta.

Although the N.W.T. had a hard time keeping up with the fleet-skated Alberta side, they held their own in the physicality department.

Alberta scored on their only power-play opportunity.



Damien Gaunaq of Team Nunavut competes in the traditional Dene games sport of snow snake Sunday at the Arctic Winter Games. Fox Lake's Jeremiah St. Arnault set a new record in the event. See story on Page 11. Photo by CARL PATZEL, Ulu News

foto source™
PHOTOMAGIC

OFFICIAL
PHOTOGRAPHER

FOR THE 2004
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

View your event photos
at our photo station
in the main building
at MacDonald Island, and
we can print your image
while you wait.



We have all your photofinishing
needs and supplies in store

- 1 Hour Photofinishing
- Digital Printing, Prints from Prints
- Digital & 35mm Cameras
- Frames, Albums & Batteries
- Digital CD's
- and much, much more!

Located in the Plaza II Mall

790-0460



Email: photomagic@fotosource.com Website: www.photomagicfotosource.ca

**Alberta Building
Trades Council**

PROUD SPONSOR
OF THE
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES



ABTC representing
the best-trained and safest construction workers
in Canada.



Greenland, Alberta dominate badminton on Day 1

By JACQUIE McFARLAND
Ulu News

In Greenland badminton is tied for second place with skiing for popularity. At the Arctic Winter Games it's one of the few events included at every competition.

The sport has a long history in Greenland, where it was brought over with Danish settlers. When badminton first started there participants played in small houses, where lines often had to be drawn on the walls because the rooms were too small for the court. That strong history could be part of the reason that Greenland won half of the badminton medals in 2002, while Team Alberta North took the other half.

According to Anni Damgaard, vice-president of the Sport Federation of

Greenland, there are close to 1,500 players and 13 clubs in the country.

"It's a sport where you can be competitive on all levels you just need an opponent on the same level as you," said Damgaard, who recently retired from coaching the sport and whose husband is this year's coach.

Along with a history like that comes expectations, and Greenland is expected to do well at the 2004 Arctic Winter Games, but they are expecting some competition, especially from Team Alberta North.

Jason Lee, coach for Team Alberta, isn't counting the medals yet however. Only one member of this year's team competed in 2002.

"We are strong in the junior girls and maybe the juvenile girls. Other than

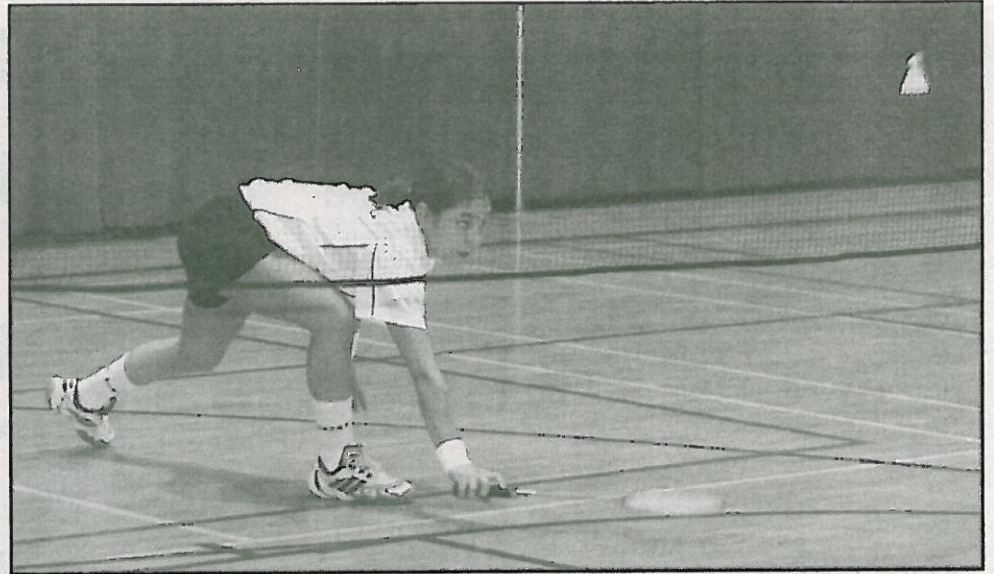
that we're comparable," said Lee.

On the other side of the spectrum of badminton is Team Alaska, which is only fielding a team of six athletes and two coaches. All other competitors in the sport have eight athletes, four juveniles and four juniors.

Athlete Andrew Perotti had two games on the first day of competition, losing both. But for the 16-year-old, who has only been playing competitively for two months, the experience is invaluable.

"It's a pretty good tournament going on here. There's been some really good matches today," said Perotti.

Badminton isn't as developed in Alaska as it is in other countries or Canada, with many of the athletes only playing the game at their high schools,



It was a close call but Petrine Jonathansen of Team Greenland caught the birdie during her junior females pool 1 preliminaries match against Kyla Kobayashi of Team Yukon at Father Mercredi School Sunday morning. Jonathansen won the match 2-0, winning both games with a strong lead.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

but allowing them to experience opportunities such as the Arctic Winter Games is worthwhile.

"We're glad to be here to watch these teams and learn from this experience. These kids are going to go back as better players than

when they came," said coach Paul Carnasky.

It's Carnasky's love of the sport that has brought him to the games for the fourth time.

"I'm addicted to the game. It's wonderful for the mind and body," said

Carnasky.

Badminton goes on all week at Father Patrick Mercredi high school and St. Gabriel high school. At Merc, the semi-finals will start Thursday at 10 a.m. and the medal rounds will start Friday at 9 a.m.

Quality

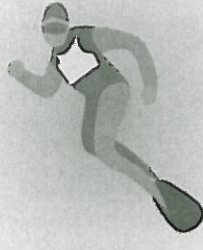
REWIND & ELECTRIC INC.

230 MacApline Cres., Fort McMurray, AB. T9H 4A6 Tel: 743-1123 Fax: 743-1477
www.qualityre.ca

- Electrical
- Instrumentation
- Electric motor pump sales, service & repair



Proud Sponsor
of the
**2004 ARCTIC
WINTER GAMES**



TELUS Mobility
authorized dealer

"Mission Critical Communications"

Proud Supporter & Sponsor
of the 2004
Arctic Winter Games

- Mikes
- Camera Phones
- Cell Phones & Accessories
- Rentals
- Radios
- Security Surveillance Equipment



10017 Queen Street

791-1002



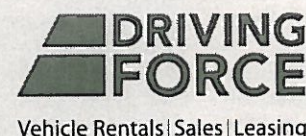
OFFICIAL SPONSORS



AlbianSANDS



ATCO



FUNDING PARTNERS

Canada



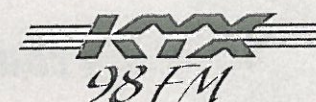
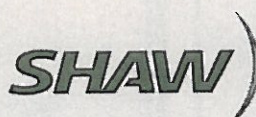
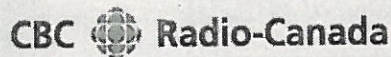
THE REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY
OF WOODBUFFALO

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Fort McMurray
Catholic Schools

MEDIA PARTNERS



GOLD

Corporate Networks
Printing Unlimited
(1985) LTD.

Air Mikisew Ltd.
Alberta Building Trades
Council
Alcor
Athabasca Tribal
Council
Burger King
Canada Post
Casman Construction
CNRL
the CAT Rental Store
CEDA-Reactor
Coca-Cola
ConocoPhillips
EGL-Eagle Global
Logistics
Finning
Flint Energy

BRONZE

Golosky Group
Guthrie Mechanical
Services
Home Hardware
IBM
Initial Security
International Union of
Operating Engineers
June Warren
Publishing/
OilWeek Magazine
Kiewit Management
Kinettes
L.Robert Enterprises
Laird Electric
Matco Transportation
Systems

McMurray Serv-U
Expediting
Moxie's Restaurant
Northern Plains Moving
& Transport Ltd.
Northland Forest
Products
PCL Contractors Inc.
PTI - Crown Camp
Caterers
Quality Rewind &
Electric Inc.
Remax
Sawridge Inn &
Conference Centre
Skyreach Equipment
Ltd.

Sportswise Source
for Sports
Spruceland Lumber
Stewart Weir & Co.
Ltd.
Superior Propane
Superpages
Tuccaro Inc. Group of
Companies
Terasen Pipelines
Transwest Mining
Systems
Travelodge Hotel
United Rentals of
Canada
Water Pure & Simple
Williams Transportation
Woods Sleeping Bags

FRIENDS OF THE GAMES

Acree Designs
ACFN Business Group
Alberta Dance Alliance
Anzac Winterfest
Best Western/Nomad
Boomtown Casino
CBS Construction
Coast Paper
Don Cherry's Sports
Bar & Grill
E. Construction
EMCO
Fort McMurray Boys
and Girls Club
Fort McMurray Youth
Soccer Association
Gold Country Realty (1989 Ltd.)

Girard Enterprises
Gregg Distributors
Interplay
Ironworkers Local 720
Lemax Machine &
Welding Ltd.
Oil Barons
Pizza Hut
Podollan Inns
Shell Select Store -
Fort McMurray
Vista Ridge Recreational
Association
WAM Development
Group

SILVER

Burnco Rock Products
IKON Office Solutions
Diversified Transportation Ltd.
H. Wilson Industries
Mammoet Crane Inc.
Marsh Lake Tents and Events
North American Construction
Tridon Communications



Yamal-Nenets small contingent, but big on table tennis

By JACQUIE McFARLAND
Ulu News

Yamal-Nenets is the smallest contingency at the 2004 Arctic Winter Games but they're athletes in table tennis are proving to be powerhouses.

Even before the first day of competition was completed there was a buzz about how well the Russian team was playing.

"It's very popular and it's quite well developed," said coach Nikolay Sakal of table tennis, through a translator.

The Yamal-Nenets team consists of only four players and one coach but it looks as though they might cut into some of Greenland's medals. In 2002, Greenland won a total of 14 Ulus in table tennis. Unfortunately for Yamal-Nenets a misunderstanding kept them from bringing a full contin-

gency. They learned too late that they could bring juvenile players.

However it's been great for the athletes who were able to come.

"You can feel that it's a real event," said 16-year-old Alina Sakal, who, along with teammate Oksana Andreykiv, never expected to travel internationally playing table tennis.

For Nunavut player Inuusi Akavak, 14, being at the games was never something she thought about when she started playing at her local youth centre in Iqualuit.

"I went to practices after school and my principal asked if I was interested in going to the Arctic Winter Games for table tennis and I didn't expect that," said Akavak, who won two out of her three games on the first day of

competition with doubles partner Courtney Dunphy.

Nunavut coach Mathew Alainga said that his athletes, many of whom are playing competitively for the first time, are nervous about the event.

"I keep telling them to calm down, relax and play table tennis," said Alainga, a teacher in Iqualuit who volunteers his time to coach the players during recesses, lunchtime and after school.

So far Nunavut has proven to be a bit of a surprise in table tennis, but Alainga points out that the advantage can shift at any time.

"Everyone is the same. Their rhythm could be broken anytime," he said.

Table tennis is at Greely Road School starting at 9 a.m. each day. The final Ulu presentation will be on Friday at 6 p.m.



Hansigne Peterson of team Greenland serves up some spin during table tennis action at Greely Road school. Always strong in the area, Greenland and Alaska are being tested by a strong Yamal squad these Arctic Winter Games.

Photo by CARL PATZEL, Ulu News

Your Store For "Clothes that Work" in The Cold

Look Hot!

Come in and check out our selection of brand names such as Carhartt and Levis

Warm Up!

Keep your extremities warm for up to 7hrs with our Hand Warmers for \$1.99 and Toe Warmers for \$2.99

Stock Up!

Assorted Winter Accessories
Socks, Gloves, Toques and Scarves
Starting at \$7.99

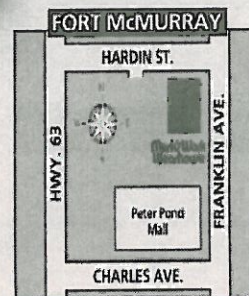
Special Merchandise

For a limited time only!

I am Canadian
Tops and Bottoms

**Mark's Work
Wearhouse**

Clothes That Work.



Store Hours:

8:00 AM - 9:00 PM Mon-Fri

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Sat

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sun

Yukon wins first battle of soccer tournament

By JEFF KORENKO
Ulu News

While both the Yukon and Alaska were thrilled to kick out their first-game Arctic Winter Games jitters, it was the Alaskans who wound up kicking a tad harder Sunday.

Forward Kayla Walton's nifty tally off a free kick to the side of the Yukon goal midway through the second half was just enough to push Alaska past their Canadian neighbours to the east in the icebreaker for both juvenile female soccer squads at the C.A. Knight Recreation Centre.

Also scoring for the Alaskans was Whitney Velez.

Replying for the territory was Emily Sessford, whose marker off a penalty strike in the first minute of the second half brought the Yukon into a 1-1 tie and provided some much-needed momentum.

While the intense action from two teams expected to contend for ulus provided many a heart-stopping moment for the packed crowd in attendance, both sides admitted afterward to succumbing to nerves early on.

"With the first-game jitters, you never know what's going to happen," said Alaska coach Kenneth Dodson.

Please see 'Alaska'/Page 18



It was fancy foot work all the way as Jackie Harrison, centre, of the Yukon's juvenile girls' soccer team, worked to get past Linsey Kato, left, and Kayla Walton of Team Alaska during the indoor soccer game on the surface put on the Terry Conroy Mini Drome at MacDonald Island.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

A recreational wonderland



in your backyard.



www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca



STEWART WEIR GROUP

surveying • geomatics • engineering

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES SNOWSHOEING



Athabaskan resource company



Day 1 medalists

Arctic sports — Kneel jump — open female

Gold: Nicole Johnston, Alaska

Silver: Susie Pearce, Nunavut

Bronze: Jennifer Bell, Alberta

Arctic sports — Kneel jump — open male

Gold: William Saunders, Nunavut

Silver: Gary Okheena, N.W.T.

Bronze: Phillip Blanchett, Alaska

Arctic sports — Kneel jump — junior female

Gold: Nikki St. Martin, Alberta

Silver: Lena Belenko, Magadan

Bronze: Victoria Popova, Magadan

Arctic sports — Kneel jump — junior male

Gold: Byron T Okheena,

N.W.T.

Silver: Iliya Kushch, Magadan

Bronze: Aisa Anautak, Nunavik

Dene games — Snow snake — open male

Gold: Damien Qaunaq, Nunavut

Silver: Darius Elias, Yukon

Bronze: Kaare Erickson, Alaska

Dene games — Snow snake — junior female

Gold: Julia R Ramoth, Alaska

Silver: Christy L Dupuis, Yukon

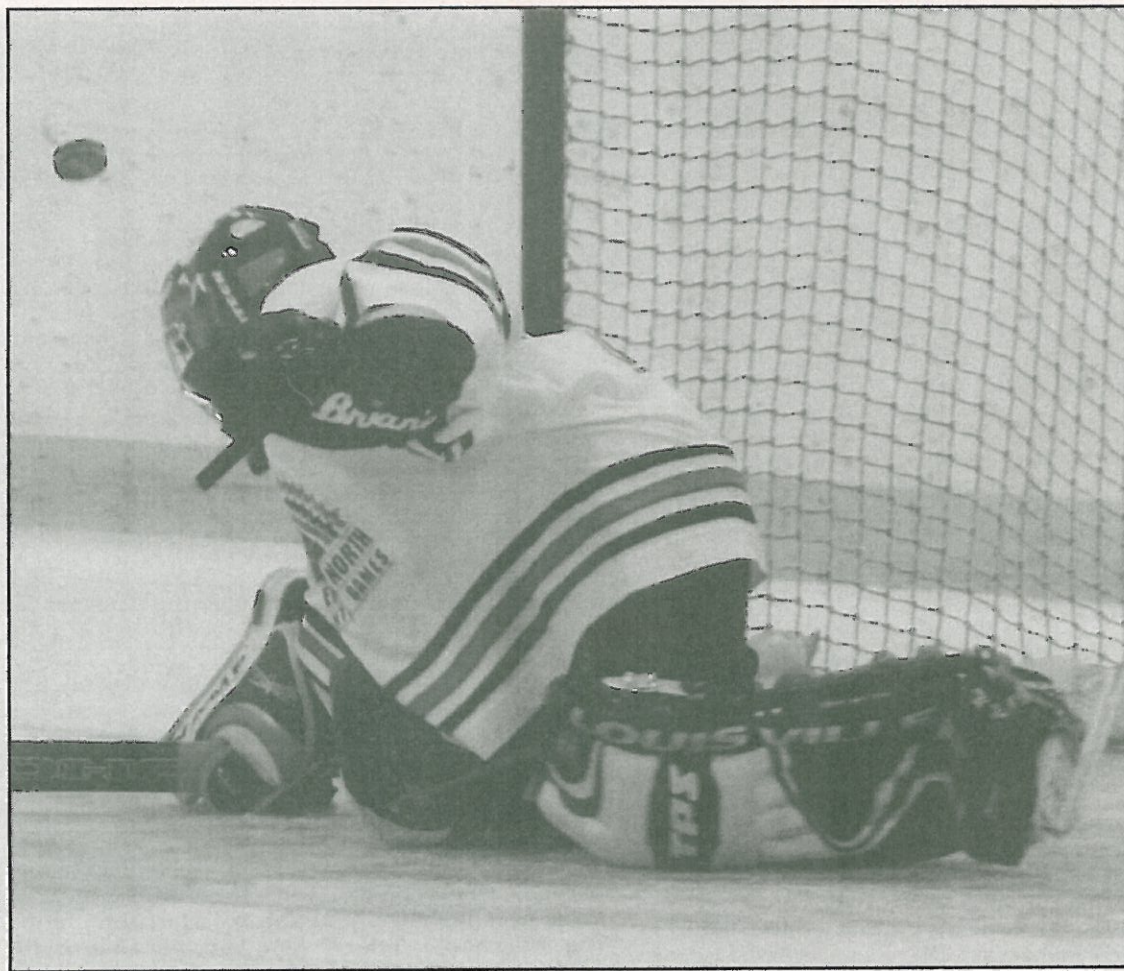
Bronze: Erin Gon, N.W.T.

Dene games — Snow snake — junior male

Gold: Jeremiah A St. Arnault, Alberta

Silver: Kyle P.G. Benjamin, Yukon

Bronze: Blake N. Lepine, Yukon



KEEP OUT!
— The puck glances off Team Alberta North goalie Braden Gurtler-Gamble as he successfully goes for a shutout during the Sunday afternoon game against Team N.W.T. at the C.A. Knight Recreation Centre on MacDonald Island. The game ended with a score of 8-0.
Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

interPLAY 2004

SPONSORED BY TransAlta

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL
AUGUST 6-8
FRANKLIN AVENUE, FORT MCMURRAY

ON THE TRANSALTA MAINSTAGE:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

Mocking Shadows



SATURDAY, AUGUST 7



CORB LUND BAND

PLUS
mikeplume



CLARK ROBERTSON
COMEDY



HYPNOTIST
DR. JOHN ROBERTS



CHILDREN'S
SUMMER
THEATRE CAMP
RUNS JULY 12TH - AUG 6TH
WITH PERFORMANCES
DURING INTERPLAY
SEE WEB SITE
FOR DETAILS

DRAMA
MUSIC
SYNCRUDE PLAYLAND
SUNCOR ENERGY STREET PERFORMERS
THE TODAY MARKETPLACE
CHILDREN'S THEATRE
AND MUCH MORE...

INTERPLAY HOTLINE 791-1600 • WWW.INTERPLAY.CA

WE ARE PROUD TO BE A SPONSOR OF THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES



Arctic Winter Games

Welcome

Bienvenue

ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ

Tikilluaritsi

Velkommen

Добро

пожа.ловать

Peter Pond
Shopping Centre

EXTENDED HOURS

10:00 am - 9:00 pm

March 2, 3, 4

and 5, 2004



Alaska has second-half goal disallowed for player in the crease

Cont'd from Page 16.
"It's nice to get the first one under our belt in the direction we wanted it to go.

"The Yukon was tough and the game could have gone either way."

Indeed.
Although the Yukon looked slightly more poised from the opening whistle, demonstrating cohesion in their passing and aggressive defensive play, it was the Alaskans who came away with the first good chance on the morning, as Heidi Brehmer kicked high on a penalty attempt seven minutes in.

Eight minutes later, Alaska got the opener from Velez, who converted a smart bounce pass off the end wall from Brehmer.

The 13-year-old Velez, competing in her first

AWG, was a thorn in the backsides of the Yukon defenders all morning, generating more than a couple of good opportunities for herself and her teammates.

"It was fun to play in my first game," she said. "I thought we passed the ball well and Heidi made a smart play getting the ball to me that way."

The Yukon, paced by a smart effort from defender Wheaton Symington, also earned their chances throughout the game, pestering Alaska netminder Leanne Ives with 12 shots.

Alaska managed nine shots on Yukon keeper Emily MacKinnon in the contest.

With about eight minutes to go in the opening stanza, Harrison found Jenn Matchett alone in the slot for a one-time blast,

but Matchett couldn't get enough of the ball to put it by Ives.

After the Yukon squared the match at one, both sides pressed for the tally that would decide the outcome.

Alaska was the team to accomplish the feat and they thought they had an insurance marker with six minutes to go.

However, attacker Rochelle Fields had her goal disallowed for being in the crease.

Although he said he

thought both teams played very well at times, the Yukon struggled with advancing the ball from their own end, said coach Bruce Thomson.

"The first game meant the girls were excited and certainly pretty nervous. Certainly in the first half, the

girls were nervous, they were having trouble running and breathing.

"We got some energy from that goal early in the second half, but we have some things we need to work on."

“The girls were nervous; they were having trouble running and breathing.”



Whitney Velez, centre, of Alaska's juvenile girls soccer team, pushes past two Yukon players during the indoor soccer game on the surface put on the Terry Conroy Mini Drome at MacDonald Island. Alaska won the Sunday morning game by a score of 2-1.

Photo by TAMARRA PRICE, Ulu News

What Drives You?

- We rent all makes and models of vehicles.
- Additional Arctic Winter Games inventory brought in.
- Daily, weekly and monthly rates.

At DRIVING FORCE we're driven to deliver ... *anything* you want!

340 Parent Way, Fort McMurray

780-791-0932

Toll Free: 1-800-936-9353

Official Vehicle Supplier



DRIVING FORCE

Vehicle Rentals | Sales | Leasing

Edmonton • Leduc • Calgary
Fort McMurray • Saskatoon • Iqaluit

www.thedrivingforce.com

BOOMTOWN CASINO

& ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

SPECIAL LIVE PERFORMANCE 9:00pm - 1:00am nightly!

Feb. 26 - Feb. 29, 2004

Mar. 1 - Mar. 3, 2004

Mar. 4 - Mar. 6, 2004



Brad Johner



Trick Rider



Poverty Plainsmen

Cozy on up to our lounge and enjoy a night of Complimentary LIVE Entertainment

We're More Than A Place to Gamble...

Proud Sponsor of the Arctic Winter Games



9825 Hardin Street 790-9739
in the Peter Pond Shopping Centre

Medal standings

	G	S	B	Tot
 Yukon	0	3	2	5
 Alaska	2	0	2	4
 Magadan	1	2	1	4
 N.W.T.	1	2	1	4
 Alberta	2	0	1	3
 Nunavut	1	1	0	2
 Nunavik	1	0	1	2
 Greenland	0	0	0	0
 Sami	0	0	0	0
 Yamal	0	0	0	0

Bobbi-Jo Beaver thrilled to perform

By JACQUIE McFARLAND
Ulu News

Bobbi-Jo Beaver is a young girl with a big voice and bright future. The young performer started early and, at 10 years old, Beaver is already an accomplished singer doing what she enjoys.

"When I was five I just used to play around singing and writing songs," said Bobbi-Jo, who lives in Fort Chipewyan and will be performing during the Arctic Winter Games this week.

At age seven she started to enter singing competitions and has since been featured on some gospel recordings made with her dad, Allan Beaver. The pair also travel together and have been the feature performers at the Lac St. Anne pilgrimage for the past two years.

They get many requests

for performances, but the family is limited on when they can perform because of work and school.

It's been the encouragement of her family that has kept Bobbi-Jo actively performing, despite living in an isolated community. According to Allan the main thing that he and his wife try to do is support Bobbi-Jo in what she wants to do. He believes that this makes a difference in how children can reach their potential.

"I see that lacking with kids who have big dreams in other things like athletics or music or whatever they want to pursue. She's doing her music right now so that's what we're supporting," he said.

Despite all the attention Beaver is still a normal youth, who counts her dad and her uncle, nationally acclaimed country artist Chucky Beaver, among her favourite artists alongside

Beyoncé, Ashanti and Jennifer Lopez.

Allan said that they try not to put pressure on Bobbi-Jo, allowing her to

make the decisions about what she wants to be involved in, not wanting to cause her to be turned off by any of the experiences.

On Friday, Beaver had an opportunity to share her talent with Governor General Adrienne Clarkson while she was on an official visit in Fort Chipewyan.

"I didn't think about it very much but I thought it was going to be nice," said Bobbi-Jo, of performing for Clarkson. "As soon as I

got to talk to her she gave me a hug and told me I had good singing."

Among the songs that Beaver performed was O

“As soon as I got to talk to her she gave me a hug and told me I had good singing.”

Canada in Cree, and while Clarkson told the girl that she had heard it in many languages, that had been the first time in Cree. Clarkson was so impressed by the performance that she's invited Beaver to perform at Rideau Hall in Ottawa this Canada Day.

"I'm hoping to go on a plane because I've always liked planes," said Bobbi-Jo. "Since I was five I've been asking to go on a plane."

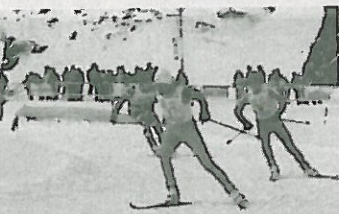
We make IT possible

Successfully managing major events demands dedicated skilled personnel and focused IT-systems to deliver the results



KIMIK IT

email: kimik@kimik-it.gl - web: www.kimik-it.gl



As a proud sponsor of the 2004 Arctic Winter Games, we salute all the athletes who've come here with fire in their hearts and ice in their veins. Like you, we know what it takes to win in the North.



www.nacg.ca



ALBIAN SANDS AND SHELL CANADA
ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE
2004 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

As Official Sponsors of the Volunteers for the 2004 Arctic Winter Games, we have the easy part. As the volunteers work tirelessly to ensure the success of the Games, Shell Canada and Albian Sands are working to ensure they have uniforms, recruitment materials, training and, above all, the recognition they deserve. At Shell Canada and Albian Sands we know the more than 4,000 Arctic Winter Games volunteers are our employees and our neighbours. We believe their tireless contribution is ensuring a winning experience for the participants and the community.



AlbianSANDS