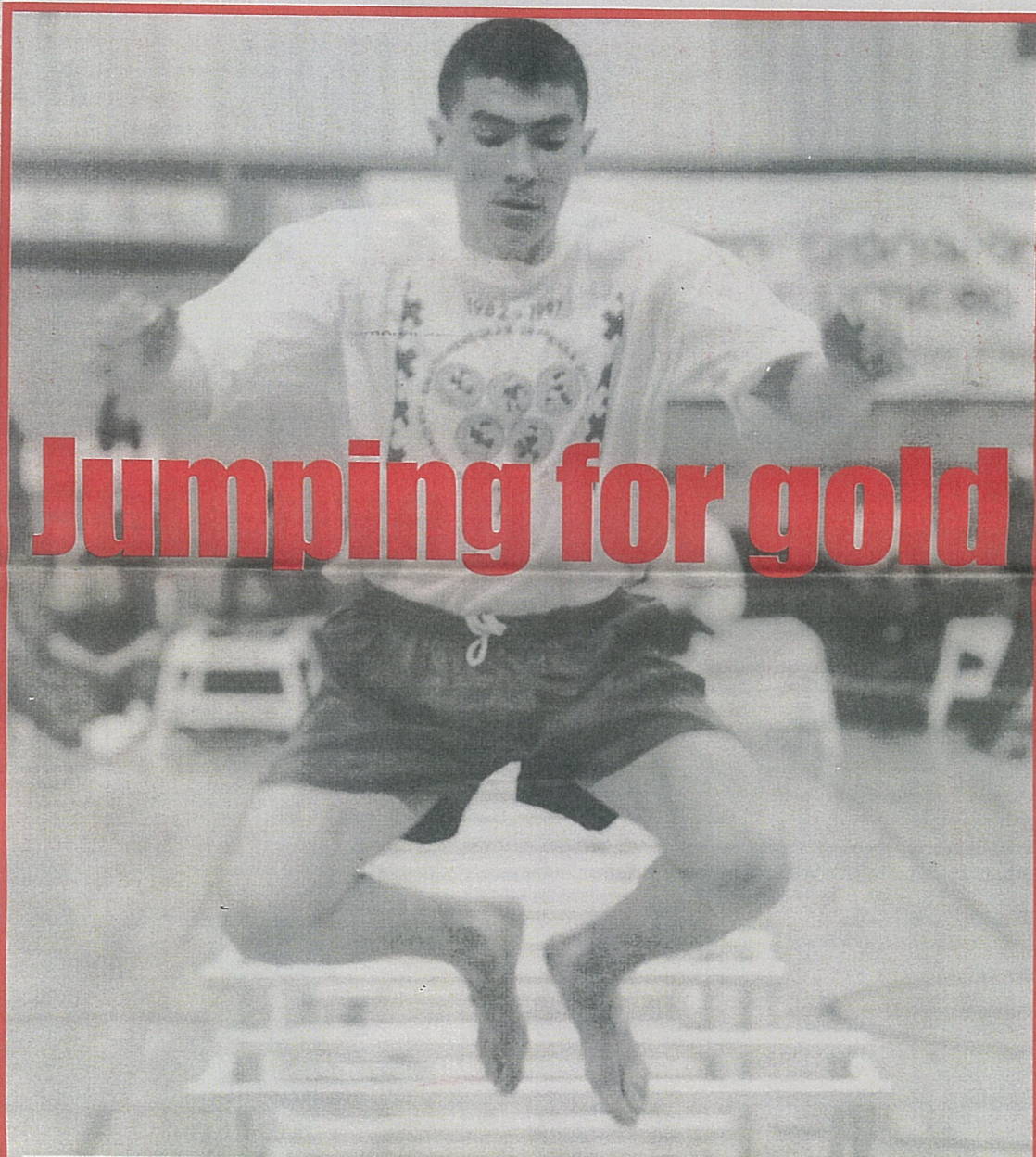


FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1998

# ULU NEWS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 1998 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES



## Jumping for gold

Anatoli Kurtyamov of Tyuman leaped 373 times to a silver-medal tie at sledge jumping last night. His team swept the men's event before a packed house at Sisson's school.

*Bill Braden/MNSL photo*



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# Yukon racer takes the pain, saves the jacket



Yukon's Tiffany Steele is still part of the action, despite a broken collarbone suffered in a training run Monday. Coach Trish MacPherson and lead dog Coony joined in the photo at the Back Bay racing venue.

by Bill Braden/NNSL photo

*Tiffany Steele wasn't prepared for that icy patch on the last corner of her training run Monday.*

by Bill Braden  
Northern News Services

"When the dogs took the inside corner, the sled careened to the outside and caught a snow patch and flipped. We were going really fast, so I hit really hard."

"I didn't even know it was going to happen. I wasn't the slightest bit prepared."

Thrown from her sled, the mishap snapped her left collarbone and left the 16-year old Whitehorse racer unable to move, while her six dog team charged off, driverless.

Fortunately, Yukon mission staffer and racing co-ordinator Bernard Menelon was right there with a van and was able to transport Tiffany to the venue where first aid and an ambulance took over. The dogs were soon retrieved.

Tiffany's story doesn't end there.

Up at the hospital, emergency staff were preparing to cut her prized Team Yukon jacket. But their patient would have none of it.

"I needed it to be in the sport. I thought I was still going to be able to race! So they rolled me over and got the jacket off that way."

Did it hurt?

"Oh yes, it hurt," she giggled with a grimace.

Even though she's sidelined from competition -- she'll be wearing a back brace and an arm sling for the next six weeks -- Tiffany's down on the ice every day and doing whatever she can to cheer her other teammates on.

She's also getting a lot of attention, and a lot of help... it was bit of a surprise to find she couldn't tie her own shoelaces with just one hand.

Not a sport for the timid, dog mushing earlier cost Tiffany a few bruises when she got her wrists tangled up in the traces and her team took off. She went along for the ride, or rather the drag, that she says lasted more than a mile.

Admittedly stubborn, she'll stick with mushing. So far, it's her pick over ballroom dancing.

## STREETER QUESTION

WHO ARE THE ATHLETES HERE? YOU? OR THE DOGS?



Hanna Boye, Yukon: The dogs. They're doing all the work. You're just there for the ride.



Cody Cousins, Alberta: Both. I'm heavier than most of the folks here, so I have to work harder to make myself lighter for them.



Krystal Bond, Alaska: The dogs. They're the ones that are breathing hard, not me.



Brent Beck, NWT: Both. You need the dogs, and they need you too.



Allison Cousins, Alberta: The dogs. I couldn't do the race without them. They could probably run it without me.

## Bulletin Board

- Remember that spectators will need tickets to get into the playoff and medal rounds for hockey and speed-skating at the Arena. Tickets are also necessary for the soccer, basketball and volleyball finals at Sir John Franklin high school.
- Tickets are on sale at the Arctic Winter Games Gear outlet in the Centre Square Mall. The store is open until 8 pm this week.
- From 9 to 10 p.m. you can go for a free swim at the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool. The Drop-In Centre will be open Wednesday and Thursday nights.
- Tonight three of Yellowknife's hottest alternative bands will be performing at the Drop-In Centre, located at 4919-49 Street. Kitty-corner from A&W. Feel free to stop in if you've got some time to kill; it's a great place to relax, listen to some tunes, watch a movie, swap some pins or send an e-mail home.
- If you are looking for souvenirs or gifts to take home, be sure to check out all the great stuff at the Games Gear Outlet in the Centre Square Mall. You can't beat the prices.
- Just a reminder to medal winners to move away from the presentation area after you have been given your medal to make room for the next group of winners. Things can get crowded pretty quickly, and your cooperation is appreciated.
- There is a toll free phone number to get Games' results. Friends and family in the Yukon, Alaska or the far reaches of the NWT can call 1-888-474-5026 to find out how you are doing.
- Saturday's Closing Ceremonies at the Yk Community Arena are scheduled for 6:30 pm, not 6:00. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, boots, etc.

## Arts Events

### FRIDAY, MARCH 20

#### Prince of Wales Museum

10:30 - 9:00 pm  
Arctic Winter Arts Exhibit

#### Baker Centre

11:50 - 1:15 pm  
Tupaanaq  
Yukon NLS Dancers  
Ecole St. Joseph  
Northern Lights  
Jumpers  
Alaska Northstar  
Performers  
Ener  
NWT CJBs Drummers

#### Javaroma

2:30 - 3:30 pm  
Aklavik Drummers and Dancers  
Randy Sibbeston  
Ceilidh Friends  
Richard Lafferty & Youth Fiddlers

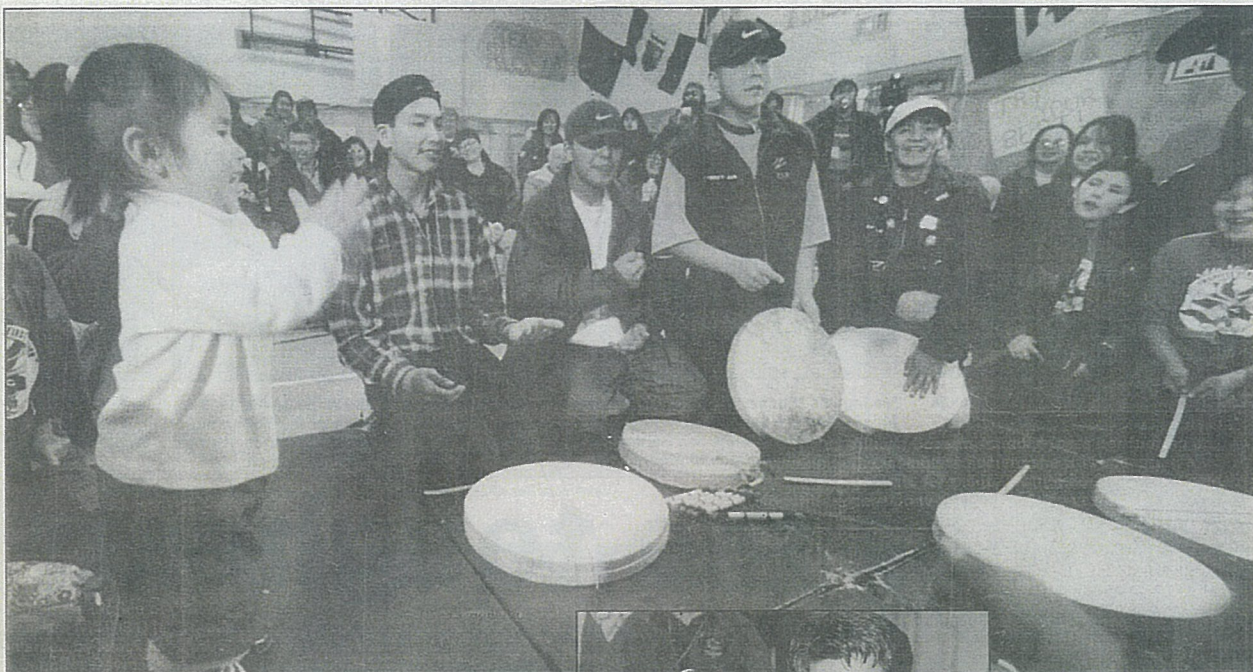
#### Sir John Franklin School

2:00 - 3:00 pm  
Kidstuff

#### NACC

2:30 - 3:30  
Children's Concert  
7:30 - 10:30  
Arctic Gala





by Bill Braden/NNSL photo  
One-year old Dakota Liske romped into the drummers circle and kept the crowd, and herself, entertained with her own version of hand games.

# Hand jive

The N'dilo gym was packed Thursday afternoon for the most animated event of the AWG: Dene hand games, also known as stick gambling.

The atmosphere at the N'dilo gym was festive, happy and relaxed as elders, spectators and youngsters all mingled, laughed and applauded the teams and their tactics.

To the throbbing double-beat of caribou skin drums

and throaty chanting from Dettah and N'dilo elders and youth drummers from Rae Edzo, teams of four squared off in best-of-three contests. In the end, Yukon take the gold, followed by Alaska and NWT.

The objective: each side

must guess who on the other side is hiding a pebble or coin in his hand.

The teams kneel on the floor, about three feet apart. The communication is gestures and body language using the arms and hands, all the while rocking, bobbing and swaying to the rhythmic beat of the drums and chants.

As each guess is right or wrong, short colored sticks are exchanged to mark the score. When enough sticks end up with one side, the match is over, usually less than ten minutes.

It was the first gold in Dene Games for the Yukon team of Jordan Caesar, John Acklack, Duane McGinty and Edwin McGinty.

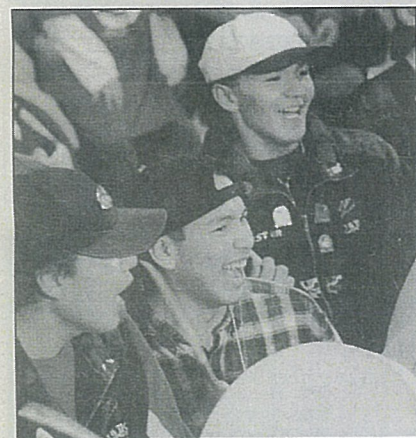
What makes Yukoners the best stick gamblers?

"We've got a lot of team spirit and cheering going on all the time," said McGinty. "Mostly it's because we play every day," added Caesar. The two Yukoners noted one difference in the NWT - here, it's exclusively a male event, while in Yukon, women have been playing for years.

Dene Games wraps up today with the finger pull, starting at 1:30 p.m. at the N'dilo gym.



by Bill Braden/NNSL photo  
Who's got the pebble? Chris Bughhins and Manny Buckley of Team NWT try to trick the Alaskans with closed hands and crossed arms.

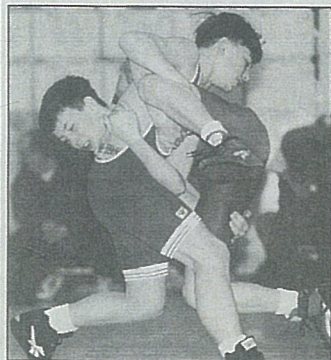


by Bill Braden/NNSL photo  
The youth drummers from Chief Jimmy Bruneau School in Rae kept the beat strong and steady for the hand games. They were spelled off by elders from Dettah and N'dilo during a full afternoon of chanting and drumming Thursday at the Dene Games.



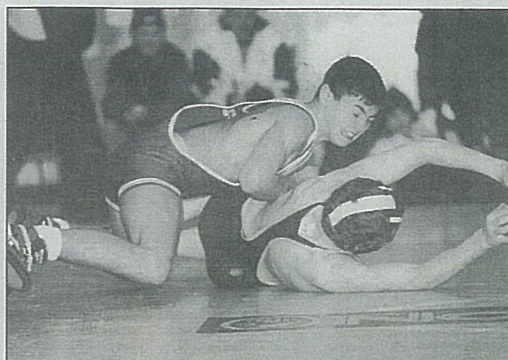
by Bill Braden/NNSL photo  
Freddy Tinqe of Rae makes his move as Team NWT tries to keep the silver medal from Team Alaska.





by Steve McKinley/NNSL photo

Sean Peterson of Alberta (front) takes down the Yukon's Gordie Funnell in bantam wrestling action yesterday. Funnell eventually won



by Steve McKinley/NNSL photo

Madagan's Djanaev Tchermen (L) tries to turn Alaska's Nathan Moore during a bantam wrestling match yesterday. This was the first year that Madagan fielded a wrestling team. Tchermen lost a close match to Moore.



by Steve McKinley/NNSL photo

Jed Wade of Alaska (top) tries to turn Fred Stick of the Yukon during their bantam wrestling match yesterday. Wade ended up winning by a pin.

## Two of the toughest



by Bill Braden/NNSL photo

World champion Alexander Tasmanov, a superbly conditioned athlete, bounded over 603 sledges to take the gold in men's arctic games competition last night. He led his Tyuman team to sweep all the medals in the mens event.

Two of the most gruelling, demanding events on the entire Games menu thrilled capacity crowds at Sissons School last night.

by Bill Braden  
Northern News Services

The first event featured the ancient Russian game of sledge jumping, also the newest edition to the Games roster. And predictably, the Tyumans swept the course.

Sledges are what many Northerners would call a komatik. The traditional way was to tip them on their side, spaced close together, then, both feet together, hop over them. Whoever jumped the most before crashing, or collapsing, was the winner.

The modern version, imported by the Tyuman and Magadan athletes, replaces the sledge with spindly wooden frames, ten in a row. Athletes hop the course, twist around, take a five-second break and jump again. And again. And again.

Krista Andre, a gymnast turned arctic sportster for Team Yukon, was gasping after 35 jumps. Asked what made this event so difficult, she had one word.

"Breathing."

Undisputed world mens sledge jumper Alexander Tasmanov, 31, did the whole course 60 times without faltering (about 15 minutes) for the gold medal title at 602 sledges. Even with the help of his team-

mates who shouted "Pashyol!" (Go!) every turn, it was a far cry from his astounding world record of 870.

Tyuman teammates, Tobolsk Longori and Anatoli Kurtyamov, both tied for silver at 373, and Alexander Zhenakov to bronze at 306.

Next, and not for the timid, or the squeamish, was the knuckle hop.

The crowd was told this contest, where a leter "hop" (seal-like) on toes and balled clenched knuckles, was handed down a test of how much pain one could endure. This would help prepare for the rigors of hardships of life on the land.

It is indeed a true test of pain, as few the event endured more than 50 feet before collapsing with grimaces showing the struggle.

Due to the late hour of the event, complete results for both the sledge jumping and knuckle hop were not available for this edition of ULU News. Check the Games website at [www.98.awg.ca](http://www.98.awg.ca) or pick up tomorrow's edition of ULU News for comprehensive medal listings.

## Young dedication

*It's obvious from the moment that Tiffany Setters steps onto the ice that this young Alaskan figure skater is someone special.*

by Brad Heath  
Northern News Services

Coach Cindy Solberg describes 11-year-old Tiffany as a hard-working and dedicated skater who demands perfection from herself - but there's more than that to this exceptional young person. Young Tiffany exudes grace and composure that seem well beyond her years.

The crowd and judges at the Yellownknife Community Arena last night obviously agree. Tiffany skated away with a bouquet of flowers and a Beanie Baby that the approving crowd tossed onto the ice after her performance. She also collected a third gold ulu by winning the Preliminary Ladies' Free Skate competition.

In an interview following her gold ulu performance, a beaming Tiffany says she was "pretty nervous" and "very excited" going into the Free Skate. Tiffany says her performance "could have been better" but coach Solberg says she thought Tiffany "did great!"

"She did really great. She had one little bobble, she only made one mistake and that was in a new jump that she was performing for the first time in competition," says Solberg who coaches Tiffany with Rorv Burghart.

Tiffany won her first gold ulu in the Preliminary Ladies Elements event on Monday evening. She received a second gold ulu the same evening when Alaska won the Team Compulsory Elements event.

Tiffany's interests outside of figure skating include ballet, jumping rope and going fishing and four-wheeling with her father. However, her dedication to figure skating over the past three-and-a-half years doesn't leave her with much spare time.

Solberg estimates that Tiffany practices skating up to two hours every day in addition to on and off-ice conditioning. "She skates a lot," says Solberg. "Every day she gets up early and skates before school and then again after school."

"She puts her all into skating and she has high expectations from herself," says Solberg.



by Brad Heath/NNSL photo

Alaskan figure skater Tiffany Setters and her coach Cindy Solberg.