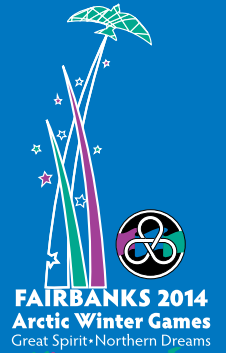


OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

ULU NEWS



FRIDAY
MARCH 21, 2014

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CULTURES OLD AND NEW



“The Arctic Winter Games cultural program is an important part of the Games, promoting the indigenous cultural exhibitions and activities reflecting each of the participating teams. ...”

**MORE ON THE CULTURAL
GALA » PAGE 8**

“It’s never easy for AWG fans outside the host community to see their teams live, but one group of students from Nunavik-Quebec worked hard to make the 4,000-kilometer trip to Fairbanks. ...”

READ MORE » PAGE 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Today's games » 3

Kids from Nunavik » 4

Northwest Territories profile » 5

Badminton popularity » 7

Cultural Gala » 8

Volunteer profiles » 10-11

Gymnastics » 12

Table tennis photos » 13










Badminton photos » 14

Pins » 15

Raavee's Suitcase » 19

MEDALS BY TEAM

Ulu counts as of 9 p.m. Thursday

Contingent	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 Alaska	34	39	44	117
 Alberta North	30	15	21	66
 Greenland	6	6	7	19
 NWT	15	16	19	50
 Nunavik-Quebec	5	8	8	21
 Nunavut	3	3	6	12
 Sapmi	7	2	6	15
 Yamal	32	42	14	88
 Yukon	17	17	24	58

Arctic Winter Games schedule: Today and Saturday

TODAY

ARCTIC SPORTS—Lathrop High School, Sledge Jump: Junior Female and Open Female, Junior Male and Open Male, 10 a.m.; Open Male Knuckle Hop, 2 p.m.

BADMINTON—North Pole High School Singles Semifinals, Junior Female, 3:30 p.m.; Junior Male, 4:15 p.m.; Juvenile female 11:30 a.m.; Juvenile Male, 12:15 p.m.; Doubles: Junior Female 1:45 p.m.; Junior Male, 1 p.m.; Junior Mixed, 10:45 a.m.; Juvenile Female, 10 a.m.; Juvenile Male, 11:30 a.m.; Juvenile Mixed, 10 a.m.

BASKETBALL—UAF Patty Center, Bronze Medal Game: Junior Female, 4 p.m.; Junior Male, 7 p.m.

BIATHLON SKI—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Mixed Relay, 2:30 p.m.; Junior Mixed Relay, 2:30 p.m.

BIATHLON SNOWSHOE—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Junior Mixed Relay, 11:30 a.m.; Juvenile Mixed Relay, 11:30 a.m.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Relays, Junior Female 10 a.m.; Junior Male 11 a.m.; Juvenile Female, 10 a.m.; Junior Male, 11 a.m.; Midget Female, 10 a.m., Midget Male, 11 a.m.

CURLING—Fairbanks Curling Club, Junior Mixed Qualifying and quarterfinals, 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.; 3:30 p.m.

DENE GAMES—Ryan Middle School, Pole Push, Juvenile Female, 8 a.m.; Junior Male, 10:30 a.m., Junior Female, 2 p.m.; Open male, 3:30 p.m.

ICE HOCKEY—Big Dipper Ice Arena, Junior Female: Bronze Ulu Game, 4:30 p.m.; Gold Ulu Game 7:30 p.m.; Bantam Male: Bronze Medal Game, Northwest Territories vs. Nunavut, 9 a.m.; Midget Male: Bronze Medal Game, 12:30 p.m.

INDOOR SOCCER—UAF Student



Hockey teams compete Wednesday during the Arctic Winter Games. AUDRA BRASE/ULU NEWS

Recreation Center, Intermediate girls playoffs, 10 and 11 a.m.; Bronze Ulu Game, 7 p.m.; Junior Female Playoffs, 2 and 3 p.m.; Bronze Ulu Game: 7 p.m.; Junior Male Playoffs 4 and 5 p.m.; Juvenile Female Playoffs, 8 and 9 a.m.; Bronze Ulu Game, 6 p.m.; Juvenile Male Playoffs, Noon and 1 p.m.; Bronze Ulu Game, 8 p.m.

SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING—Carlson Center, Juvenile Female 1,000M, First Heats 11 a.m. and Finals at 1:35 p.m.; Juvenile Male 1,000M, First Heats 11:10 a.m.; Finals 1:50 p.m.; Junior Female 1,500M, First Heats 11:30 a.m.; Finals 2 p.m.; Junior Male 1,500M, First Heats 11:45 a.m.; Finals 2:15 p.m.; Juvenile Female 2,000M, 2:35 p.m.; Juvenile Male 2,000M Relay, 2:40 p.m.; Junior Female 3,000 Relay, 2:45 p.m.; Junior Male 3,000M Relay, 2:50 p.m.

SNOWSHOEING—Birch Hill

Recreation Area, Juvenile Female 5K, 4 p.m.; Juvenile Male, 5K, 5 p.m.; Junior Female, 7.5K, 6 p.m.; Junior Male, 7.5K, 7:15 p.m.

TABLE TENNIS—Hutchison High School, Singles, Junior Female and Junior Male Semifinals, 9 a.m.; Bronze and Gold Ulu Matches, 12:30 p.m.; Juvenile Female and Juvenile Male Semifinals, 9:30 a.m., Gold and Bronze Ulu Matches, 12:30 p.m.; Doubles, Junior Female and Junior Male, Semifinals, 9 a.m.; Bronze and Gold Ulu Matches, 12:30 p.m.; Junior Mixed Semifinals 10:30 a.m., Bronze and Gold Ulu Games, 2 p.m.; Juvenile Female and Juvenile Male, 9 a.m., Bronze and Gold Ulu Matches, 12:30; Juvenile Mixed Semifinals 10:30 a.m., Bronze and Gold Ulu Matches, 2 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL—West Valley High School, Junior Female Bronze Ulu Match 5 p.m., Gold Ulu Match, 7 p.m.; Junior

Male Bronze Ulu Match, 1 p.m., Gold Ulu Match, 3 p.m.

WRESTLING—North Pole Middle School, Individual Inuit Weight Classes, Noon.

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES—Pioneer Park, AWG Museums Exhibit, noon to 6 p.m.

2,000 people starting final full day of Winter Games

By Bob Eley
ULU NEWS

It's hard to believe, but the 2014 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks are rapidly drawing to a close.

Today is the final full day of competition in the weeklong celebration of sport and culture featuring participants from nine regions across the circumpolar north.

Nearly 2,000 athletes, staff and cultural delegates from Alaska, Alberta North, Greenland, Northwest Territories, Nunavik-Quebec, Nunavut, Sapmi (Northern Scandinavia), Yamal (Russia) and the Yukon have been entertaining the people of Fairbanks with their athletic accomplishments and cultural displays for the past week.

There are 15 events on today's sports calendar featuring every-

thing from Arctic Sports to wrestling.

The Arctic Winter Games culminate Saturday with gold ulu matches in badminton, basketball, curling, ice hockey and indoor soccer.

Closing ceremonies are at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Carlson Center.

Through the first four days of competition, Alaska leads in the overall medals table with

117, followed by Yamal with 88, Alberta North with 66, Yukon with 58, Northwest Territories with 50, Nunivak-Quebec with 21, Greenland with 19, Sapmi with 15 and Nunavut with 12.

The race for the most gold ulus is much closer, as Alaska leads with 34. Yamal is just two behind with 32, and Alberta North has 30.

In addition to all the sports events on today's schedule,

another Cultural Gala is on tap at 7 tonight at Hering Auditorium. Tickets are available for \$35 for adults and \$30 for senior citizens, military and youth.

Ten more sports — Arctic Sports, biathlon ski, biathlon snowshoe, cross-country skiing, Dene Games, snowshoeing, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball and wrestling wrap up today.

GAMES » U18



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Welcome Arctic Winter Games Competitors and Fans!





After working hard to raise the money, these kids came all the way from Nunavik-Quebec to cheer on the region's AWG team as fans. Top row (left to right): Long Shirley Sakkiagak, Jessica Pilurtoot, Kaudja Alaku, Sarah Alaku, Madeline Yaaka. Bottom row (left to right): Christina Garrett (teacher), Jimmy Uqittuq, Andy Nappaaluk, Paulusi Nuktie, Juily Tertiluk. MATHIEU COUTURE PHOTO/KATIVIK REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

Nunavik students raise money to cheer at the Games

By Sarah Beaulne
and Brent Reaney
ULU NEWS

It's never easy for AWG fans outside the host community to see their teams live, but one group of students from Nunavik-Quebec worked hard to make the 4,000-kilometer trip to Fairbanks.

"We had to fundraise. We had to do a lot of work," said Madeline Yaaka, a high school student in the community of Kangiqsujaq. "We made earrings sometimes, we did bake sales, we did burger and fries nights, we did take out. We raised \$4,000, and in a community of 700, that's a lot."

Beading, Valentine's Day treats,

“ Even though we've only been here about six days now, we're already noticing a difference in the kids. They're more confident. They're more courageous. ...”

Christina Garrett, teacher

sushi sales at the local Christmas bazaar and the raffling off of an iPod are just a few of the other ways the students reached their goal, which equals nearly \$6 per community member.

However, the entire trip cost much more, so the students approached local businesses and government organizations and asked for them to cover an additional \$43,000.

Thankfully, local organizations

such as the Kativik Regional Government, Makivik Corp., Brighter Futures, local sport and recreation groups, and others, answered the students' call.

Teacher Christina Garrett came up with the idea to have kids from the community raise money to attend the games in Fairbanks last year while drawing up an English exam on which the Arctic Winter Games was a topic.

In total, 19 students expressed interest in working to fundraise and nine were selected using criteria such as behavior, attitude and interest in the Games. They started raising money in early September.

"I like watching Arctic Sports because so many people can try Inuit games in the circumpolar world," said Kaudja Alaku, a ninth-grade student.

Although she didn't earn a spot on this year's Team Nunavik-Quebec, Alaku did win a gold in stick pull during a competition in her community this past summer.

Like Alaku, the rest of the students have really enjoyed the Arctic Sports competitions, as

well as Dene Games. The experience has some of the kids thinking about taking part in the next games, and maybe even starting a women's hockey team in the region. It's also made an impact on them in other ways.

"Even though we've only been here about six days now, we're already noticing a difference in the kids," Garrett said. "They're more confident. They're more courageous. They're very proud of themselves and where they come from and we really like seeing that growth.

"And they're very thankful," Garrett added. "Every day they're saying thanks to me, to each other, because they know how hard they've worked."

It takes a lot of work getting hundreds of people to Fairbanks from Northwest Territories for Games

By Libbie Martin

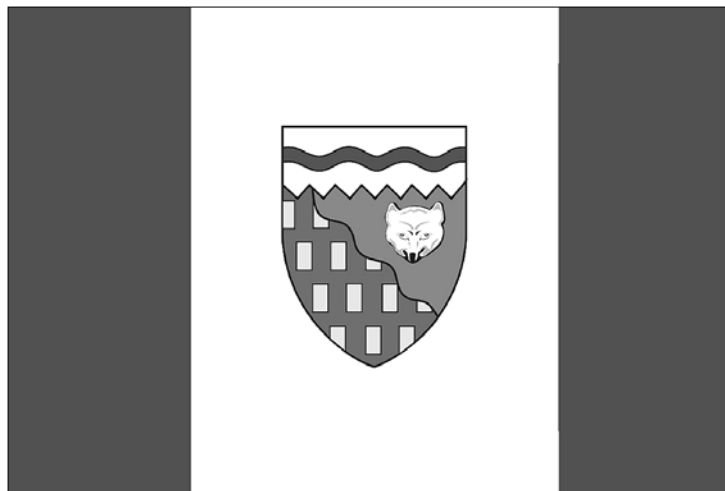
ULU NEWS

The Northwest Territories is the second largest of the three territories in Canada, extending from the 60th parallel to the North Pole and including several large islands in the Arctic Ocean.

The population is more than half Dene, Inuit (Inuvialuit) and Metis peoples.

This year, 329 athletes, 44 coaches, 10 cultural participants, seven chaperones, 15 mission staff and dignitaries including Commissioner of the NWT George Tucaroo; Premier Bob McLeod; Minister of Sport Robert McLeod; and Speaker of Legislative Assembly Jackie Jacobson came to Fairbanks to participate in the Arctic Winter Games. Oh, yes, and 29 dogs.

Athletes were chosen in territorial trials, based on athletic abilities and sportsmanship, according to Drew Williams, mission staff/



Northwest Territories flag ULU NEWS

media liaison. This year, because of some extreme cold weather, some trials couldn't be held, so the participants were picked based on their skills and fitness. Once the teams were picked, there were development camps to allow the participants to work together as a

team, as much as possible.

A few teams, however, went above and beyond to ensure their cohesiveness, Williams said.

"Some teams took the initiative to fundraise and attend competitions as a collective team," he said.

Administratively, it was a huge

effort to get everyone to Fairbanks.

"We spent a lot of time making sure they all had passports," Williams said. Some of the participants had non-Canadian passports, "so we had to sort out additional requirements to get visas — it speaks to the broadening cultural makeup of our territory."

Logistics involved getting the right sized clothing to each participant and transportation.

"We don't have a lot of roads, (so we) chartered flights from Yellowknife to Fairbanks," Williams said. It took four planes to get the entire contingent to the Games.

Team Northwest Territories has to have the best Parent Booster Club ever — the parents chartered their own plane to get more than 200 fans and supporters to the Games.

"They are having a party," Williams said.

Williams believes the Games are an important part of the young athletes' development.

"We want them to gain the experience of a multi-sport competition," he said. "We want them to gain the experience of multi-cultural event. We want them to begin friendships that they will continue, especially in this day of Facebook."

Meeting new people, learning new skills, getting to know other cultures and finding out what they can do if they try serve as the team's goals.

"I know it's corny, but we want to give them an opportunity to get a little peek of their dreams," Williams said.

Northwest Territories sent two athletes as part of the Canadian contingent to the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, this year, Williams said.

"Both were introduced to competition through the AWG," Williams said. "We want all the kids to know it is possible. Above all else we want them to have fun."

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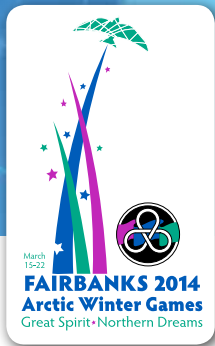
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Some surprised badminton isn't more popular

By **Danny Martin**
ULU NEWS

Badminton is considered as the second-largest sport in the world, but Bruce Sahlstrom can't understand its lack of popularity in Alaska.

Sahlstrom, from Whitehorse, Yukon, is the head referee for the Arctic Winter Games' matches at North Pole High School and has officiated in the Pan American Games.

"I'm not from Alaska, but I think maybe the people in Alaska are concentrated on hockey, football and soccer," Sahlstrom said during Thursday's round-robin play for junior mixed doubles. "So maybe they like those sports they're familiar with, like basketball."

According to badmintonclubs.org, the University of Alaska Fairbanks has its UAF Badminton Association and there is the

Anchorage Badminton Club.

"All you need is running shoes and a racquet and you're good to go," Sahlstrom said. "I'm surprised more people aren't playing it because it can be played in a gym any time and kids don't need to invest a whole lot of dollars playing badminton."

"Athletically, it's the most athletic sport in the world to play. It's fully aerobic," he said.

Sahlstrom said the Arctic Winter Games is donating some equipment to North Pole High School after the games are completed.

Sahlstrom estimated that if a person wanted to buy equipment to start, a net would cost about \$25 to \$30 and racquets would cost about \$15 to \$20 each.

The AWG badminton features 70 players representing seven delegations. Yamal and Sapmi don't have participants in the competition.

Sahlstrom described badminton as a nice sport that's easily

played by so many people.

According to a July 2004 article on espn.go.com, more than 1.1 billion worldwide watched the broadcasts of the badminton matches in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Badminton became an official Olympic sport in the 1992 Games in Barcelona.

Be careful

Side streets in Fairbanks have become meeting places for some Arctic Winter Games athletes. It's not the type of meeting places that Wendell Shiffler wants to see as the weeklong games are winding down.

Shiffler, the vice president of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, said that some people in Fairbanks have told him of athletes standing in the middle of a street to talk to each "other after the athletes have crossed a street."

"They've said, 'You know Wendy, I have to be really care-

ful while driving around here because these kids are crossing the street and so forth,'" Shiffler said during Thursday morning's media briefing in the Carlson Center.

"They don't meet over here but they see each other in the middle of the street and they start talking, and that's where they meet sometimes," he added.

Shiffler expressed to chef de mission of each delegation to tell their athletes be careful and he asked Interior residents to be aware of the athletes are gathered in streets to talk.

Shiffler, though, understands the asphalt get-togethers for the athletes.

"Many of them come from small villages," the 46-year Fairbanks resident said, "and that's where they meet, in the middle of the street to talk and share things that are going on in their homes and their schools and so forth."

"Some of them have finished

their competitions, they've made friends now and they feel comfortable with each other," he added, "and that's where they join and meet and they'll talk to each other in the middle of the street."

Talent show

Karen Lane, AWG general manager, said this year's host society wasn't sure how Monday night's talent show at Hering Auditorium would turn out.

It's the first talent show for the athletes in the history of the Games.

It was better than expected, drawing an audience of 900.

"They were cheering like it was the Emmys or something," Lane said at the media briefing. "Every time every person went (on stage), there was great support from everybody."

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



"I'm surprised more people aren't playing it because it can be played in a gym any time and kids don't need to invest a whole lot of dollars playing badminton."

Bruce Sahlstrom, badminton referee from Whitehorse, Yukon



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GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS

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CULTURAL GALA

©AWG2014/Greg Martin

Cultural Gala performance Thursday GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS

Talent, music transcend the language barrier

By Jonni Roos
ULU NEWS

The Arctic Winter Games cultural program is an important part of the Games, promoting the indigenous cultural exhibitions and activities reflecting each of the participating teams.

The cultural program includes daily performances and collaboration with other artists from the nine arctic contingents and culminates in a final fete and feature event of the Games cultural activities: the Cultural Gala.

The 2014 Arctic Winter Games Cultural Gala is directed by Stephanie Wonchala, artistic director for the Games, in coordination with Gina Kalloch, cultural chair of the AWG Host Society.

The Arctic Winter Games cultural program is sponsored by Sumiitomo Pogo Mine.

Each contingent brought a select group of artists to Fairbanks to represent their cultural region.

Wonchala had the daunting job of integrating nine cultural groups in only four short days, having only met her cast members on Sunday. What she and the contingent performers created is a living peek into different worlds, interpreted through music and dance.

Team Greenland was represented by the dance group Drops of Ice from Ilulissat, Greenland.

Performers include Maalianguaq Hermansen, Sandra Jeremiassen, Linda Christiansen, Mia Martha Larsen, Ulu-inanguaq Olsen and Maliina Vahl. The group performed a special piece entitled "Flying Drops." One player opines, "How can you focus on the melting of the iceberg when you're only 15 and want to have fun?"

Flying on colored wings, the narrator visits other cultural regions, represented by international rhythms from India, France, Japan and Africa.

Yellowknife's Dene First Nations Drummers performed traditional Dene

style rhythm with skin drums accompanying the traditional chants. The drummers' rhythms were crisp and well timed to the flowing lyrics. Performers include Leroy Betsina, Gordie Liske, Randy Balargeon and collaborator Brian Walker of Eagle River.

Team Sapmi was represented by two talented performers, Anna-Katri Helander and Marja Helena Mortensson.

Mortensson, dressed in traditional costume, sang songs of the Sami culture as she accompanied herself on piano. Her range is astounding, hitting some impressive icy high notes.

Helander performed a stylistic belly dance to traditional arctic native regional songs, punctuating the rhythm with her movements and demonstrated her amazing muscle control.

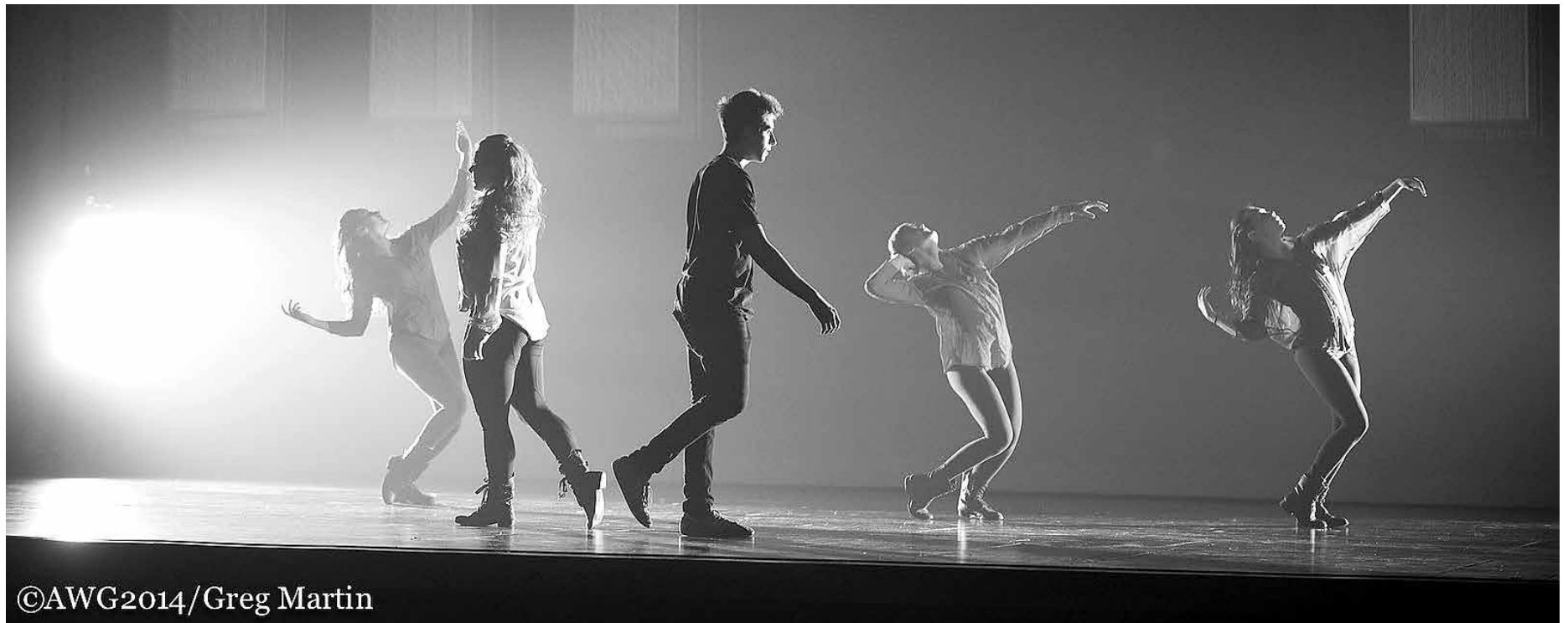
Team Yamal brought regional performance group Vy'Sey (Soul of the Tundra) for the Games, comprised of Alena Kiprina, Irina Serotteo, Rozalia Taleeva and Iabne Vengo.

Using harmonics, skin drum and a Guimbarde (a twanging mouth instrument similar to a jaw harp), the performers bring to life the stories of the Nenets people through songs and crafty scenes that depict village life as well as recreating the sounds of the region.

Team Nunavut was represented by the Inukauk Dream Dancers, performed by Rachel Michael, Jasmine Oolayou, Molly Ell, Tuqqaasi Ida Mae Nuqingaq, Olivia Chislett and Laura Churchill.

Accompanied by guitar, the seven ladies harmonize singing in Inuit and in English about their home in Nunavut. The troupe also performed a round of traditional throat singing — katajjaq — a breathy musical discipline that is unique to the Nunavut culture, as well as a traditional Inuit chant and drum dance using large fabric frame drums.

Team Northwest Territories presented the Bella Beats Dance Troupe from Yellowknife, comprised of Quin Chiasson,



©AWG2014/Greg Martin

Cultural Gala performance Thursday GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS

CULTURE

Continued from U8

Maurissa Antle, Kirs-
tyn Leidy Falck, Hannah
Schauerte, Lyndsay Ann
Matesic and Brook Dwyer.

The dancers of the Bel-
la Beats Dance Troupe's
interpretive dance fea-
tured long flowing grace-
ful movements, portrayed
life in their arctic region,
highlighting a sense of
unity and community,
striking a note of deter-
minedness through their
interpretive movements.

Team Alberta North
was represented by the
Fort McKay Northwind
Dancers, performed by

Star Grandjambe, Trace
Quintal, Heaven-Leigh
Grandjambe and Taylor
McDonald.

The Fort McKay North-
wind Dancers were pure
pageantry with their elab-
orate traditional dress and
high energy movement.
Stepping to the rhythmic
powwow sounds of the
Anishinaabi people, the
dancers demonstrated
many of the First Nations
traditional dances such as
the powerful men's North-
ern dance, the rhythmic
dance of the jingle dress
and the graceful mystery
of the fancy shawl dance.

Team Yukon present-
ed the Yukon Perform-
ing Arts Ensemble. Six

actors — played by Emile
St-Pierre, Kevin McLach-
lan, Caassandra Mary
MacDonald, Kara-lyn
Jane Fredrickson, Nich-
ole Murdochk, Alita Lee
and Andrea Powell — per-
formed a contemporary
dance routine entitled
Aurora Connections, cre-
ated especially for the Ar-
ctic Winter Games.

The piece combined
modern dance move-
ments interspersed with
high energy breakdancing
to tell a story of love and
adventure.

Team Nunavik-Que-
bec brought the Maani-
lu Asianilu Troupe, also

CULTURE » U19

Using harmonics, skin drum and a Guimbarde (a
twanging mouth instrument similar to a jaw harp), the
performers bring to life the stories of the Nenet people
through songs and crafty scenes that depict village life
as well as recreating the sounds of the region.

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GREAT SPIRITS: 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Anna Culley a big hockey fan — if it's local

By Allen Shaw
ULU NEWS

Anna Culley has been in Alaska most of her life. She is married and has a 19-year-old son. She has managed a home daycare business for 18 years.

Culley also is also a “hockey mom” whose duties of packing up sweaty socks, skates and pads, and heading to the ice rink during the wee hours every morning for the past decade has led her to the position of Hockey Committee Chair for the 2014 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks.

She became involved with AWG in June 2013 as a member of the Hockey Committee. When the chairperson transferred out of town last fall, Culley was chosen to take the lead.

“I feel very fortunate in that the hock-

ey community in Fairbanks is very supportive of events and we have had an overwhelming response to our request for help, not only from the adults but from the youth volunteers also.”

Culley also serves on the Fairbanks Youth Hockey Association board of directors and is the president of the Northern Interior Association for the Education of Young Children.

As for the Games, Culley said, “We have been able to fill our volunteer needs, and my job has been much easier than I thought it would be because of the great committee I have been able to work with.”

Surprisingly, Culley is not much of a “typical” hockey fan.

“As involved I am in the hockey world in Fairbanks and Alaska (at the state level), I do not follow any national teams like most sports fans,” she said. “In fact, I very rarely watch any hockey on television.”

She said she does enjoy watching the local hockey teams but has never played or coached.

“I don’t even know how to skate,” she said.

When she does find some free time, Culley likes to read.

She said she feels fortunate to be able to contribute something to the Games.

“I would like to thank every single volunteer in any organization that is willing to step up and help,” Culley said. “It is a true sign of a person’s character to be willing to give their time, effort and talents to help others.”

In the midst of the chaos usually associated with the games and scheduling venues, Culley and the Hockey Committee have pulled together a rather aggressive schedule to accommodate the athletes, coaches and entourages from the different contingents.

“For our visitors I would like to say welcome,” she said. “Fairbanks offers so many opportunities to learn about Alaska and everything about our state that make it so special to live here.”

She hopes everyone enjoys the Games.

“I feel very fortunate in that the hockey community in Fairbanks is very supportive of events and we have had an overwhelming response to our request for help, not only from the adults but from the youth volunteers also.”



Anna Culley, Arctic Winter Games volunteer ULU NEWS

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GREAT SPIRITS: 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Local business owner dives into community service

By Allen Shaw
ULU NEWS

As Fairbanks settles into its role of hosting the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, there is a buzz around town and although it requires an army of volunteers putting in long hours, the excitement seems to be infectious.

"I love the energy," said Kara Nash, chairwoman of the graphics and signs committee. She said she may never look at a graphic or sign the same way ever again.

Nash is from upstate New York, graduated from the University of Rochester and moved to Fairbanks seven years ago. She started working for the Downtown Association as events and marketing director.

"My goal is to help nonprofits fund-raise through events that benefit the community," she said.

When she isn't working or volunteering for the Arctic Winter Games, Nash is a high school diving coach.

"I was a gymnast all my life, and when I reached the middle school

level, I converted to a diver so I could participate in a school-sanctioned sport," Nash said.

She competed at the collegiate level four years and when she moved to Alaska began coaching at West Valley, Monroe Catholic, Hutchison and Lathrop high schools.

"I eventually became the diving coach for North Pole making my coaching program borough-wide," she said. I have been coaching locally for six years and will continue to do so as long as I can."

Nash recently opened her own event planning business, taking on projects like the Yukon Quest Annual Wine Tasting and Auction, Habitat for Humanity's Festival of Trees and the Midnight Sun Festival.

"It gave me the flexibility to be actively involved in AWG, coach high school diving and create a schedule that allows for new and exciting challenges," she said. "I want to give everything my all, but the challenge has been finding enough hours in the day."

Although she is a self-proclaimed workaholic, Nash does like to travel and explore.

"I like to travel statewide and will make any excuse for a road trip," she said. "I go dip-netting in Chitina every summer. I also like to get out of Alaska occasionally and like planning trips to visit friends around the country."

"I enjoy spending time in Montana during the winter, learning to snowboard," she added.

Now that the Games are actually under way, she said she is thrilled to be involved as much as she is.

"I get to experience every aspect of the Games," she said. "I get to go from behind the scenes to dining with the athletes to just being a spectator."

Nash is grateful for the friends she's made through the Arctic Winter Games and "how much they make me laugh." She said, "I have also become addicted to pin trading after procuring a valuable 'spin' pin from Team Alberta North. I am hooked on the Arctic Winter Games."



Kara Nash (right) with friend Joanna Wallace.

ULU NEWS

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TRACY L. PETERSEN/ULU NEWS

Alaska, Alberta gymnasts run a close competition

By Angela Major
ULU NEWS

It was standing-room only at Gymnastics Inc. on Thursday, home of the 2014 Arctic Winter Games gymnastics team and individual competition.

Loretta Cole, Gymnastics Committee chair and owner of Gymnastics Inc. was, “so happy (to see) all the people who came out.”

Those people came to watch the 20 athletes, representing the five North American contingents of Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Alberta North and Nunavut, leap, swing and cartwheel their way through their routines on the vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise.

With only about a minute to present their skills, and with the most minor of missteps separating the athletes who earn their place on the podium, the young

ladies remained all smiles and cheers for their teammates and competitors alike.

Even the coaches were working hard together to reset the mats and bars between routines, “it totally (takes) a team of all coaches to make it work” said Cole, who previously coached Team Alaska in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

Any sense of stiff competition between the athletes and teams was lost on the floor.

Teams Alaska and Alberta North have historically been separated from the gold and silver ulus by only the slightest of margins in the team event.

In what was a repeat of the 2012 games, Team Alberta North scored just tenths of a point higher than Team Alaska to ensure the national anthem of Canada was played at the medal ceremony.

“I was very happy to come out on top again,” Sandy Boisvert, first-time coach for Team Alberta North, said.

She added the team’s, “focus was (on) the team competition

and to be great ambassadors for Team Alberta North.”

Two of the four members of Team Alberta North came from Fort McMurray and two came from Grande Prairie. According to Boisvert, the team’s recipe for success came from a training camp they held for the ladies in Fort McMurray.

“It was an excellent idea to put all four together. They really became part of something,” Boisvert said.

For 11 year-old Taylor Boulton it was a “privilege and meant everything to be on the Alberta Team. This was my first international competition, first time being on a team.”

Delaney Mayer, Boulton’s teammate, also considered it a privilege to represent Team Alberta North.

For her first competition, Mayer enjoyed “having fun, meeting new friends and playing fair.” Mayer’s attitude earned her a Fair Play Pin.



© AWG 2014, Brian W. Schlumbohm

BRIAN W. SCHLUMBOHM/ULU NEWS



Gymnastics is a female-only sport at the Arctic Winter Games, in which the four members of a team compete as individuals in single-event competitions (uneven bars, vault, floor exercises and balance beam), all-round and a team event, all in a single age class. There is one coach. A total of nine gold ulus are awarded in gymnastics. Teams that regularly participate in gymnastics include Alaska, Yukon, Alberta North, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The 2014 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks gymnastics events are held at Gymnastics Inc. BRIAN W. SCHLUMBOHM/ULU NEWS

GYMNASTICS

Continued from U12

According to the Arctic Winter Games Staging Manual, Fair Play Pins are awarded by the individual sport head official to a member of each team who goes above and beyond in demonstrating respect to each other and are excellent ambas-

sadors of the sport and contingent.

The privilege of competing on the gymnastics team for Alberta North comes only once for the girls who represent the Fort McMurray Club.

“The club only allows the girls to participate in one Arctic Winter Games for gymnastics,” Boisvert said. “We then encourage them to go into the Arctic Sports Events.”

Boisvert’s daughter once rep-

resented Team Alberta North for gymnastics and returned twice more for the Arctic Sports competition.

The girls certainly represented Team Alberta North well in the individual competition with two girls earning at least one place on the podium in each event and alongside their friends from Team Alaska.

Teams Alaska and Alberta North have historically been separated from the gold and silver ulus by only the slightest of margins in the team event.



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BACK AND FORTH: Table tennis



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Arctic Winter Games participants compete in table tennis matches on Thursday. TROY BOUFFARD AND JOHN T. ADAMS PHOTOS/ULU NEWS



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SERVE AND RETURN: Badminton



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Arctic Winter Games participants play badminton. TOBEY-JEAN PRIEST AND GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS



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GAMES

Continued from U3

The Birch Hill Recreation Area will once again be the busiest venue of the day with four sports on the schedule — the two biathlons, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

The biathletes and skiers will be competing in relay races, while the snowshoe races feature 5K events for the Juvenile racers, a 7.5K race for Junior females and a 10K race for

Junior males.

Arctic Sports wrap up with the sledge jump in all four divisions of competition and the Open Male knuckle hop at Lathrop High School, while the Dene Games finish their 2014 run with the pole push at Ryan Middle School.

Speed skating concludes with a busy day at the Carlson Center. Juvenile females and males will compete in 1,000-meter events, while Junior female and male racers will go 1,500 meters. There's also relay races on tap

with the Juvenile competitors going 2,000 meters and the Juniors 3,000.

The table tennis venue at Hutchison High School will be hopping with gold, silver and bronze ulus being awarded in all divisions.

Wrestling will decide its Inuit style champions today at North Pole Middle School.

In team sports, ice hockey will decide its Junior female champion at 7:30 p.m. when Alaska takes on Alberta North. Also this afternoon and eve-

ning, the volleyball titles for Junior females and males will be on the line at West Valley High School.

Curling begins the Junior mixed tournament today, after crowning Alberta North as the Junior female champion and Yukon as the Junior male champion on Wednesday.

Cultural performers

In addition to tonight's Gala, there are numerous cultural events at Pioneer Park from

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Arctic Winter Games Museums exhibit, the Folk Art Fest and Expo, pin trading, train rides and sled dog rides are on the schedule.

Featured performers in the civic center theater are the Golden Heart Hoop Troupe at 2:30 p.m., Joseph Randsell Green at 3 p.m., Jesse Bartlett at 4 p.m., Tara Chrisman at 5 p.m. and Dry Cabin String Band at 6 p.m. *Check the schedule on page 2 or go to www.awg2014.org to find more complete schedules.*

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UNIQUE ITEMS ON DISPLAY

By Libbie Martin
ULU NEWS

While Fairbanks was getting itself ready to welcome 3,000 people from the circumpolar north for the Arctic Winter Games, mascot Raavee sent a letter to 99 communities throughout the nine regions sending contingents to the Games, asking for “unique items” from their region to display during the Games.

Sallie Stuvek, co-chair of the Media Committee, said they thought the “Raavee’s Suitcase Initiative” would generate excitement among the communities.

“(We also wanted to) demonstrate the diversity of the participants and their geographical

areas,” Stuvek said.

The display is at Pioneer Park’s Civic Center, on the third floor next to Pin Central.

The display includes mukluks, scrimshaw, several pins from previous Games and other items holding special significance for the senders.

The Raavee’s Suitcase display includes mukluks, scrimshaw, several pins from previous Games and other items holding special significance for the senders. ULU NEWS



CULTURE

Continued from U9

known as Kangiqsujuaq Brazilian Drummers, performed by Hanna Putulik Ilimasaut, Mary Saggiaq, Aupaluk Qumaaluk, Mark Adams and Levina Alaku. These are the big drums of the evening, incorporating sharp snares, deep toms and kettles with the rhythms of Brazil. The troupe learned the fine art of Brazilian drumming with that all important punctuating Samba whistle and have incorporated it into traditional songs of Nunavik. Garbed in white kuspuks, the Troupe’s performed these original takes on their traditional songs produced big round sounds that filled the senses and the auditorium with their richness.

Team Alaska was represented by the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Yup’ik Dance Group, performed by Andy Karmun, Andrew Nicolai, Willie Drake, Jerilyn Alexie,

Amanda Christine Andrew and Brianne Wilena Hunt.

The group from Sitka focuses on showing Yup’ik traditions of dance and drumming to tell stories of the Yupiit people. The dancers interpreting through motion to the callers drum and chant, perform a traditional friendship song and dance, followed by a dance titled Soldier Boy.

The grand finale performance of the evening was a group endeavor incorporating all of the participants into a melange of movement and sound, to appropriate backbeat of the song “I Feel So Close to You Right Now” by Calvin Harris.

A second performance is scheduled for 7 tonight at Hering Auditorium.

Tickets are available at all TicketMaster outlets and at the Arctic Winter Games office at 333 Barrette St.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$30 for senior citizens, children and military.



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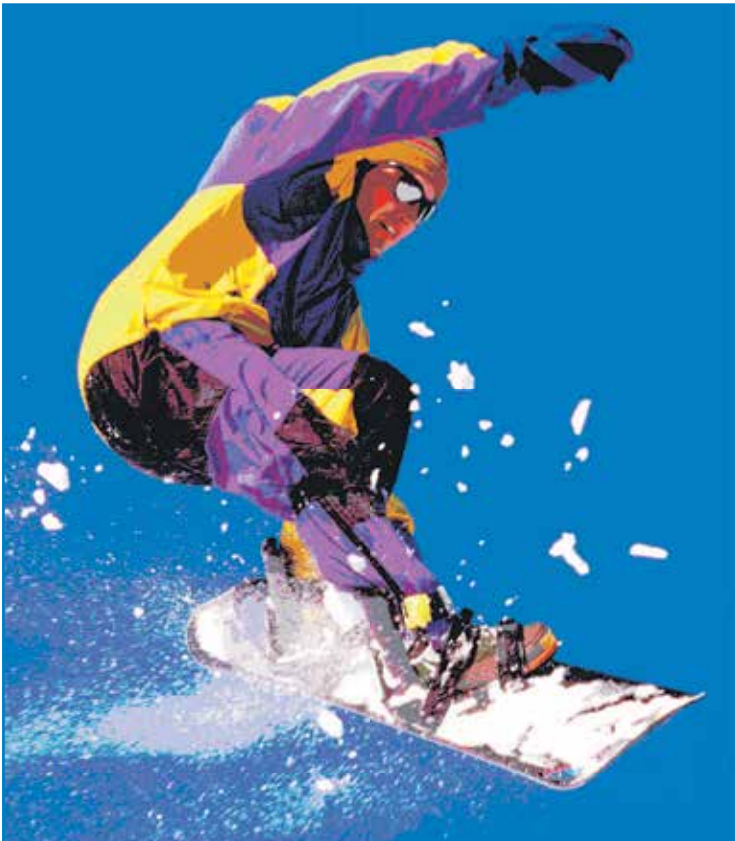
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