



PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

David Moreno

Overview of the events

GAY GAMES IV

When thousands of gay and lesbian athletes convene in New York City next month, they'll have to work hard to keep their attention focused on their sports. A myriad of cultural events, dances, conventions and other activities are scheduled to coincide with the games, including parties for the athletes and their fans.

Opening ceremonies will put the spotlight on the athletes, who will parade into the stadium with their local or national team members. Choreographers and composers have created a special lighting of the flame and original music for the event, which will feature a 1,000-voice lesbian and gay choir and a video tribute to Tom Waddell, founder of the Gay Games.

Sporting events are planned every minute of every day. Some are scheduled to begin hours before the opening ceremonies, in an effort to get through all the sports. Events this year include aerobics, aquatics, billiards, badminton, basketball, bowling, cycling, figure skating, flag football, golf, ice hockey, in-line skating, judo, martial arts, marathons, physique, power lifting, racquetball, soccer, softball, sport climbing, squash, table tennis, tennis, track and field, triathlon, volleyball and wrestling.

Cultural events include dance performances by the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, a night of "OUTrageous Comedy," and a show by Pomo Afro Homos. A ballroom dance competition and a country/western dance competition are also scheduled during the week.

Dances and parties of every theme will keep athletes and spectators on their toes during the evening hours, as well. Travelers who arrive in New York before the games can plan to attend the Out of Towners Ball on June 17. During the week of the games, dances are planned every night, including an Opening Night Jock-Sock Knockout on June 18, a Pasta and Block Party on June 24, and a Closing Night Blowout Bash set for June 25. More information on events is available by calling the Gay Games Special Events Hotline at (212) 727-6076.

Martha Allen

that, in addition to team members, spectators and people who plan to take advantage of the many cultural events associated with the games also plan to attend.

It all started with a two-line classified ad in

Just Out, which Cole placed in October 1989. Calls started pouring in, and Team Portland was born. "A bunch of people called me, and we started meeting," Cole recalled.

About 175 local athletes competed in Gay

Games III in Vancouver, British Columbia, in August 1990, Cole said.

"The games in 1990 were instrumental in getting teams organized, so they could keep going on their own," Cole said. "They really made people more aware of the gay and lesbian sports possibilities in Portland."

Some of the 1990 competitors will repeat their performances in the 1994 games. Fewer people are going this time because of the distance and because Team Portland does not have corporate sponsorship.

"This time, it's just me," Cole said. "We need money, because we don't have any corporate sponsors."

Team Portland does plan to have several fund-raising events. Team T-shirts (\$15) and pins (\$3) are available for purchase at Jelly Bean, 721 SW 10th Ave. Three bar fund-raisers are scheduled in the coming week: at Dirty Duck Pub, 439 NW 3rd Ave., at 4 pm May 22; at the Embers, 110 NW Broadway, from 9 pm to midnight May 26; and at JOQ's Tavern, 2512 NE Broadway, from 8 to 11 pm May 28.

Team members plan to leave June 17 and will travel with members of Team Seattle to Atlanta. There, they will gather with members of other gay and lesbian teams from across the country to go to New York City.

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Let the games begin!

Local athletes ready for Gay Games IV in New York City

by Martha Allen

More than 60 Portland-area gay and lesbian athletes will travel to New York next month to participate in the Gay Games competition. Gay Games IV opens June 18 and continues through the closing ceremonies June 25.

Portland residents will compete on courts and on mats, in the water and in the gym, according to Tyler Cole, chairman of Team Portland. Local athletes are entered in tennis and wrestling events, swimming competitions and martial arts contests. Others have been training for the triathlon, an endurance test that combines swimming, bicycling and running. Other local competitors will enter running events, Cole said.

In all, Cole expects 60 to 65 athletes to travel to New York next month to represent Portland in the games.

"That's just the athletes," Cole said, adding