

Alaskan Wrestlers Experience Many "Firsts"

They didn't wrestle in Warm Springs but they worked up a sweat learning to war dance. The group of 32 from the far north who have been wrestling their way around Oregon, spent a day on the reservation where many of them played in a swimming pool, rode horses and war danced for the first time.

The young Eskimo wrestlers, complete with a squad of cheerleaders, were spending 18 days in Oregon, challenging kids their age in a series of five bouts at Hood River, Madras, Bend, Eugene and Newport. Representing the fourth through eighth grades in a school district in southwestern Alaska, the kids made a point

of including Warm Springs in their tour, even though no bout was scheduled.

Explained their chaperone, Education Specialist Cal Lundy, "Wrestling is just the vehicle that gets us here." It is the cultural experience that is their primary goal in visiting the "lower 49."

"The educational activity

is far greater than whether they win or lose," continued Lundy. But of course he and the kids were feeling pretty good about having won the Madras match the night before to the tune of 76-3!

Wrestling became popular in their school system because the cold climate discourages outdoor sports, and gym facilities are lacking, pointed out Lundy.

Half of the Alaskan students stayed with families in Warm Springs during their four-day visit to the area, and the whole group gathered on the reservation Friday, April 22 for a day of "firsts."

A slide show and tour by Nathan Jim, Sr. introduced them to both the human and the economic development of the reservation through the years. In the evening, the visitors learned some eating and dancing traditions at the banquet and powwow sponsored by the junior and senior high Indian Clubs.

Speaking for the kids and himself, Superintendent Peter Three Stars from the agency at Bethel, Alaska, commented at the banquet, "I've never seen so much wealth on a reservation in terms of people and resources."

Many of the kids had never seen trees and modern homes, much less a lumber mill and a resort such as Kah-Nee-Ta.

Wrestling coach Skip Winslow shared slides of the re-

gion from which the Alaskans hailed. Warm Springs folks were impressed by the amount of ice, the sparse trees and the annual flooding depicted in the slides.

The district represented by the visitors is about the size of Oregon and contains 57 schools serving 2100 students. About 15,000 Eskimos inhabit this vast area that is dotted with isolated villages.

Eskimo students were in turn excited by a film about the Tygh Valley All-Indian Rodeo - another first.

The powwow featured several friendship round dances and a lot of war dancing. The Eskimos, whom chaperones described as initially shy, joined in enthusiastically. Between songs the cheerleaders entertained the crowd with some of their rousing cheers.

Each Eskimo youngster and chaperone was personally given a bandana scarf or beaded item by an Indian Club member in a traditional gesture of Warm Springs hospitality.

The students, who raise their own spending money through the year for the BIA-sponsored trip, were on their way to Bend the next day for more "firsts." They will have much to tell their families and friends in the 28 villages from which they ventured. Perhaps cold winter nights and long hunting treks will be spent telling stories of sprinklers, forests, lumber mills and foosball!



One of the Alaskan wrestlers who visited Warm Springs April 22, wasn't sure whether he was being blindfolded or given a headband. Keith Moody finally got it straight and the boy went back to Alaska with Warm Springs - style headgear.

CDS Photo

Warm Springs and Madras Consider Cooperative Plan

A rather unique working relationship between the Tribal Council and the Jefferson County School District may be set in motion if the School Board decides it is a valid pursuit.

In a proposal for "collaborative action planning" presented to the School Board by Tribal Education Director Charles Calica and Municipal Manager Rudy Clements on April 14, it has been suggested that a "broad based representative Steering Committee would assess current and future school and community needs and determine the effectiveness of ongoing educational programs.

The need to address certain problems and concerns in a constructive way was discussed at a meeting between the School Board and representatives of the Tribal Education Department last December. Northwest Regional Education Lab in Portland was contacted for assistance and a project proposal was drafted by January 28, 1977 and delivered to the Tribal Council, Tribal Administration and School Board.

According to Calica, response to the proposal has been "generally favorable." However he said that no action would be taken until "forthcoming discussion and scrutiny have been undertaken by both the Madras and Metolius communities."

Four tasks are outlines for the proposed Steering Committee. They are:

1. To identify current and future educational needs of the school and community in such areas as enrollment, curriculum, staffing and facilities.
2. To determine the extent to which current educational programs are meeting the identified needs.
3. To develop alternative recommendations for implementing educational improvements.
4. To select and implement the recommendations.

One notable aspect of the plan is the community-based approach. Not only will committee members be chosen from the community at large, but local people will also be trained to do the data collection. This leaves the community with skills and instruments that can make evaluation an ongoing process.

The Steering Committee itself, of course, would be an ongoing mechanism by which the Tribal Council and School Board might communicate.

The proposal points out the importance of "anticipating rather than reacting to educational problems." It is thought that collaborative planning between the diverse communities served by the Jefferson County School District would help to create just this constructive atmosphere.



Eskimo cheerleaders charmed the crowd with a selection of lively cheers during the powwow held for them April 22. The 13 girls came to Oregon with a group of young wrestlers from southwestern Alaska.

CDS Photo

Indian Week Planned For H.S.

Indian Week has been set for May 9-13 and will feature activities both at Madras High School and on the reservation. Sponsored and planned by the Indian Club whose leader is Counselor Mike Clements, the special week will be devoted to observing and celebrating Indian traditions.

As part of pre-Indian Week festivities, Indian Club members and any other interested people will go on a fishing trip on the Deschutes River April 30-31. A root digging expedition will take place May 7-8. All those wishing to participate should meet at Macy's store in the morning.

Indian Week will be kicked

off at the high school with an assembly on Monday May 9 at 2:36 p.m.

The next day, May 11, may well be the climax of the week. A mini-powwow will be held behind the Warm Springs Community Center from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Dancing, stick games and contests will be part of the fun.

Right after the powwow at 6:00 p.m. the Indian Club will have a barbeque, accompanied by more dancing and singing, also behind the Community Center.

Indian students will dress up in their regalia for the school day May 11.

A tentative raft race has

been planned to take place 1:00 p.m. May 12 on the Warm Springs River. It will begin at the Kah-Nee-Ta bridge and end down river at the Culpus Bridge.

That evening at 6:00 there will be a dinner for Senior Citizens at the Community Center.

An Indian pageant will wind up the weeklong fun. To be held at the Agency Longhouse at 8:00 p.m. on Friday May 13, it will include a display of Indian fashions in clothing and dramatic presentations.

For more details or confirmation of tentative plans call Mike Clements at the high school - 475-3888.