



NUUK 2016
Arctic Winter Games



8 - March 12 2016

ULU NEWS



Photo: AWG2016/Bo Ø. Kristensen

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Team Alaska's 297 participants all made it to Nuuk in time for opening ceremony

Athlete of the day: Team Alaska

By Martine Lind Krebs
ulunews@awg2016

Team Alaska (assistent chef de mission Kathleen Rehm)

Alpine skiing, Arctic sports, badminton, basketball, biathlon ski, biathlon snowshoe, cross country, Dene games, futsal, hockey, snowboard, snowshoe, table tennis, volleyball and wrestling

Team Alaska finished first in the medal race with 83 gold, 67 silver and 66 bronze, and was awarded the Hodgson Trophy.

How has your Arctic Winter Games been so far?

It's been a wonderful experience so far. We've enjoyed Nuuk, and people here have been gracious, warm and welcoming.

How have the members of Team Alaska liked Greenland?

We've loved visiting Greenland. We enjoyed the adventure in Kangerlussuaq, exploring Nuuk and competing in an international sporting event.

How did you like the opening ceremony?

It was lively and really pumped the athletes up. We arrived to Nuuk earlier that day so we all got to attend.

What was Team Alaska's best experience during AWG2016?

All the young Alaskans having the opportunity to compete in a country they otherwise did not have the chance to see. The team has been excited to meet new people and absorbed the culture.

What has been the worst?

Two of our athletes have had the stomach flu and had to spend a night in the hospital. They missed a futsal game but got right back into the tournament.

What was your best result?

Overall, we did really well in Arctic sports, volleyball, futsal and basketball. I think we ended up the contingent with the highest medal count in large parts because we're the largest contingent, and because our athletes are an extremely talented crowd.

How did the team prepare for AWG2016?

Some of them met for the first time in the airport, some of them have been practicing for years.

Aside from sports, what has the team experienced so far?

Many of the kids have gone to the museums or walked along the waterfront. They've been almost everywhere you can go in Nuuk, and they've met many new friends.

Arctic Winter Games 2016

Mail: awg2016@awg2016.gl

Phone: (+299) 382016

Adress: Imaneq 32, 1. th.

P.O. Box 1050

3900 Nuuk

Editors: Poul Krarup, Naja Paulsen & Arnakkuluk Kleist

Publisher: AWG2016, Sermitsiaq.AG and the Ilisimatusarfik School of Journalism

E-mail: ulunews@awg2016.gl

Mobile: +299 55 19 02

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MEDALS BY TEAM

Contingent	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 Alaska	83	67	66	216
 Alberta North	29	32	27	88
 Greenland	39	23	19	81
 NWT	16	12	23	51
 Nunavik-Quebec	6	9	6	21
 Nunavut	6	18	25	49
 Sapmi	8	7	4	19
 Yamal	2	5	1	8
 Yukon	23	41	36	100

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THANKS A LOT FOR THIS TIME!

The games are over, and the torch has been passed to South Slave. Pisiffik wants to congratulate all constetants and not to forget all of the volunteers who has been a big part of the games this year. Without you, all of this would not have been possible. We are proud to have contributed alongside the other sponsors, to show what Greenland are capable of throughtout these games.

We are looking forward to see the games back in Greenland.

MAANNAMUT QUJANARSUAQ!

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TUSINDE TAK FOR DENNE GANG!

Legene er ovre, statuetten er givet videre til South Slave. Fra Pisiffiks side skal der lyde et stort tillykke til de mange deltagere, og ikke mindst et kæmpe stort tak, til alle de mange frivillige der var med til at gøre legene en stor succes. Uden Jer var det ikke muligt. Vi er stolte over at kunne have bidraget, sammen med de mange andre sponsorer, til at legene viste hvad Grønland er i stand til.

Vi glæder os allerede til at legene vender tilbage på Grønlands jord.



NUUK 2016
Arctic Winter Games



JOIN • FEEL • JUMP

AWG16's best fair players

The following participants received a fair-play pin during AWG16



Shellane Pearson, Team Alberta North, alpine, is one of AWG16's fair players



Recipient	Sports
Alaska	
Nick Hanson (4)	Arctic Sports
Autumn Ridley (4)	Arctic Sports
Paul Paul, coach (3)	Arctic Sports
Madi Ko (2)	Arctic Sports
Koby Vinson (2)	Cross-country
Tristan Weise	Cross-country
Genevieve Grenier	Tabletennis
Erica Meckel	Arctic Sports
Art Alejandro	Volleyball
Gary Lehnhart, coach	Futsal
Joshua Goeden	Wrestling
Lita Johnson	Dene
Christian Gardiner	Arctic Sports
Brittany Sallaffie	Dene
Drew Dewberry	Dene
Madison Johnson	Dene
Isaiah Charles	Arctic Sports
Makiyan Ivanoff	Arctic Sports
Robert Strick	Dene
Jenna Hicckel	Volleyball
Eli Hermanson	Cross-country
Kai Meyers	Cross-country
Peter Hinds	Badminton
Adam Verrier	
Sang Nguyen	Volleyball
Mekhai Rich	Arctic Sports
Alberta North	
Dhruv Patel	Badminton
Mat Cole	Culture
Brant Cartwright	Volleyball
Kat Eriksen	Wrestling
Sam Hasenclever	Arctic Sports
Shellane Pearson	Alpine
Alexei Walisser	Badminton

Recipient	Sports
Greenland	
Ittukusuk Heilmann (2)	Arctic Sports
Frederikke Nielsen (3)	Snowshoe
Kiki Godtfredsen (2)	Culture
Tonny Fisker (2)	Arctic Sports
Kim Rosing, coach (2)	Arctic Sports
Melissa Larsen	Table tennis
Daniel Melanson	Badminton
Ivik Nielsen	Table tennis
Lea Lyberth Petersen	Wrestling
Abel Jensen	Snowshoe
Milka Brønlund	Badminton
Bent Jakobsen	Arctic Sports
Tittu Wille	Arctic Sports
Nunavik-Quebec	
Joy Aragootak	Badminton
Timothy Napartuk	Badminton
Nunia Simiunie	Badminton
Deseray Cumberbatch	Arctic Sports
Jason Alariaq	Table tennis
Felix Guay-Vachon, coach	Snowshoe
Philippe Balthazar	Arctic Sports
Madeline Yaaka	Dene
Nunavut	
Drew Bell (2)	Arctic Sports
Susie Pearce (2)	Arctic Sports
Olivia Christlett (2)	Culture
Thomas Levi	Dene
Curtis Willie	Dene
Myca Nakashuk	Badminton
Peter Inootik	Volleyball

Recipient	Sports
NWT	
Michael Elms	Futsal
Gaius Crook	Biathlon Ski
Jerry Dion	Volleyball
Jemra Gruben	Arctic Sports
Chris Church	Arctic Sports
Dora-Faye Hansen	Arctic Sports
Yukon	
Alice Frost	Futsal
Maggie Brook	Snowshoe
Prism Saswirsky	Badminton
Karyin Qui	Culture
Collin Hickman	Arctic Sports
Emily Gaw	Table tennis
Emily King	Arctic Sports
Peyton Twardochleb	Futsal
Grace-Anne Janssen	Table tennis
Allen Mark	Arctic Sports
Kuduat Shorty	Arctic Sports
Sofia Bond	Cross-country



AWG is a unique Arctic cultural- and sports event that we are proud to be a part of



As Nanoq sponsor we support Arctic Winter Games because we want to celebrate and unite sport, social interaction and culture in the Arctic

Mission completed

Nuuk passed the AWG flag to Hay River and Fort Smith yesterday

By Noah Mølgaard
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Hay River and Fort Smith, NWT received the Arctic Winter Games flag yesterday, officially marking the end AWG2016.

The flag transfer was part of the closing ceremony in Inussivik field house, which was punctuated by a tremendous fireworks display over the colonial harbor.

For participants, the closing ceremony was an occasion to say good-bye, but also to send Facebook friend requests.

Addressing the gathering, Nivi Olsen, Greenland's culture minister, encouraged participants to keep AWG spirit alive after they returned home.

Mayor Asii Chemnitz Narup thanked

the city and its residents for pitching in to help make the week a success.

"Your participation was a milestone and it is something we will maintain," Narup said.

The final exchange came when closing-ceremony hosts Maren Louise Poulsen Kristensen and Hans-Henrik Suseraq Poulsen handed the AWG flag John Rodda, of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, who then handed it further to the 2018 co-hosts.

Once the flag was received, the Arctic Winter Games flame was allowed to burn out. AWG2016 was done.



Photo: AWG2016



Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss

John Rodda passes the AWG flag to AWG2018 co-hosts Hay River and Fort Smith



Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss

All the entertainers who performed during the closing ceremony were called on stage at the end of the show



Photo: AWG2016



Photo: AWG2016

Young people from Nuuk dance during the closing ceremony

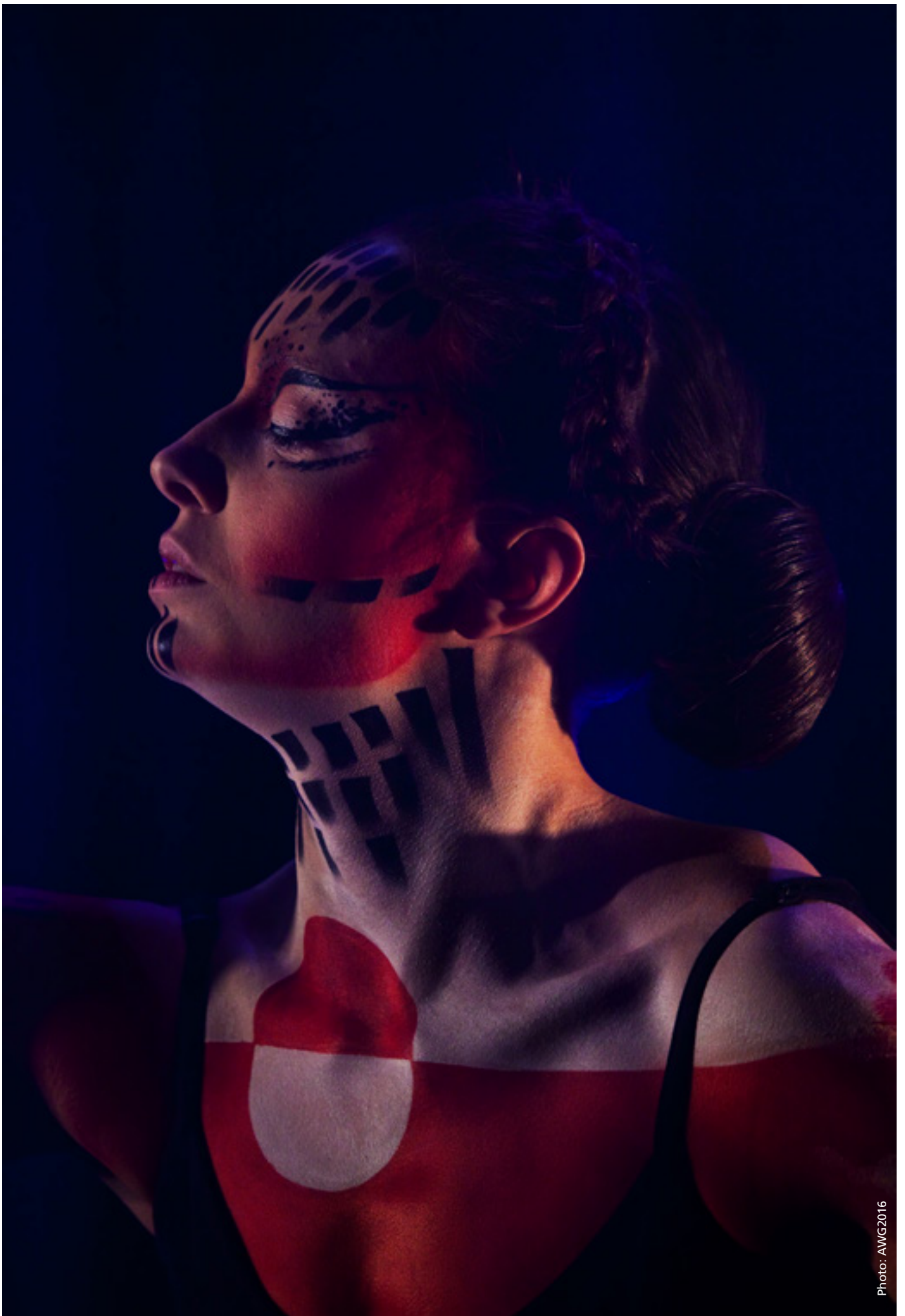


Photo: AWG2016

Team Alaska earns Hodgson Trophy

For the fifth time, Alaska won the top Arctic Winter Games honor

By Noah Mølgaard
ulunews@awg2016.gl

It was a very surprised but honored Team Alaska chef de mission who received the the Hodgson Trophy at the end of the end of yesterday's closing ceremony.

The Hodgson Trophy is awarded to the contingent that is voted to have exemplified the Arctic Winter Games' principles of fair play and team spirit.

It has been a central part of the Games since 1978, when it was awarded to Team Alaska.

Receiving the trophy on behalf of Team Alaska this year, Shawn Maltby said the trophy served as a lesson to participants that sportsmanship was also valued.

"We don't talk about trying to win the

Hodgson Trophy. But we teach our athletes about sportsmanship and that is what we saw this week," Maltby says.

In addition to being awarded the Hodgson Trophy, Team Alaska also ended these Games atop the medal standings, winning a total of 216 ulus, 14 more than they won at home in Fairbanks in 2014.

Team Alaska was particularly strong in traditional events like skiing, volleyball and Arctic Sports during this year's Games, but Maltby also noted that the team had secured medals in the futsal finals on the last day of the Games.

"Futsal is coming to Alaska, and we're proud of that."

Hodgson Trophy winners

Alaska	1978
Yukon	1980-1988
Alaska	1990
NWT	1992
Greenland	1994
NWT	1996
Yukon	1998
Nunavut	2000
Greenland	2002
Nunavut	2004
Alaska	2006
Nunavut	2008
Alaska	2010
Nunavut	2012
Greenland	2014
Alaska	2016



Shawn Maltby receives the Hodgson Trophy on behalf of team Alaska

Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss



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Photo: Leifur Josefsen

Team Greenland's junior male (in red) was golden

Final standings

Juvenile male

Gold: Team Alaska
 Silver: Team Greenland
 Bronze: Team Yukon

Juvenile female

Gold: Team NWT
 Silver: Team Greenland
 Bronze: Team Alberta North

Junior male

Gold: Team Greenland
 Silver: Team Alaska
 Bronze: Team Yukon

Junior female

Gold: Team Alaska
 Silver: Team Alberta North
 Bronze: Team NWT

Intermediate female

Gold: Team Sápmi
 Silver: Team Yukon
 Bronze: Team Greenland

Fantastic futsal finals

Team Alaska and Team Greenland each took home a gold and a silver in Friday's boys' futsal finals. Team NWT's juvenile girls needed extra time to secure a win

By Noah Mølgaard
 ulunews@awg2016.gl

Team Greenland and Team Alaska split the gold-ulu matches in an exciting close to the boys' futsal tournament on Friday.

Playing in front of a standing-room only crowd at Godthåb field house, the Team Alaska juvenile boys' held on for a 4-2 win against Team Greenland in a closely fought contest.

For Team Alaska, the win came after 3-1 defeat to the same team in the preliminary round. Both teams sailed through their semifinal matches on Thursday, setting up yesterday's rematch.

"I think I over-coached my team in the first game against Greenland," said Team Alaska coach Gerry Lehnhart. "I was trying to do too much, since we hadn't practiced a lot. That wasn't smart of me."

His strategy in the final was to prevent Team Greenland from getting too much space.

"I was sure they would give us a lot of trouble if we allowed them to work with the ball," Lehnhart said.

During a team meeting on Friday, Lehn-

hart said he had told his team to trust their skills.

"It was really exciting and crowd was against us, but it was a lot of fun," said Team Alaska's Sturm Harrison.

Later in the day, the same contingents faced off in the junior boys' final with the opposite result.

Team Greenland had played to convincing wins all week. But the noisy home crowd appeared to throw the squad off its game. After playing 1-1 for most of the game, Team Greenland scored a last-minute goal to secure the gold.

"It was really bad, but we did it," Marco Geisler, the Team Greenland captain, said.

He said that with the score knotted at half, the team decided to come out aggressively after the break in the hopes of securing the win.

In girls' action on Friday, Team NWT's juvenile side edged past Team Greenland on a golden goal in extra time to clinch the gold by a margin of 2-1.

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#AWG2016



A giant among tall people

Despite being one of the shortest players in the girls' basketball tournament, Team Alaska's Angeline Isabella Nageak was one of the leading scorers in the girls' basketball tournament

Paarnaq Hansen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Team Alaska's girls' basketball team went undefeated throughout the entire Arctic Winter Games. The team wound up winning final match against NWT, 94-46, on Friday.

A big part of the reason was Angeline Isabella Nageak, 14. Despite her diminutive stature (she measures 160cm) Nageak ended up as the tournament's leading scorer.

It is an accomplishment that she chalks up to years of training.

"I've been playing basketball my whole life, so I have practiced everyday, doing drills and stuff," she said.

Being an above average player, despite being shorter than average, is apparently also something that runs in Nageak's family.

"My dad helped a lot, too. He plays

basketball, and he taught me everything, and he's not that tall either."

While admittedly proud of being the top scorer, she recognizes it was more than just an individual accomplishment.

"It took my team to help me get there. I can't score without them passing me the ball," she said.

Nageak enjoyed playing in the tournament, but said there had been more to her Games than basketball.

"The best part is probably the food. Everything I have tried has been pretty good. It's also a great honor to be chosen to play on the team, so it is pretty big for me just to be here. I have never travelled away to play basketball," said Nageak, who will soon return to Alaska with a pair of big accomplishments.



Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss



Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss



Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss



Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss



Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Alberta North's boys won 5-4 over NWT in the final

Alberta North, NWT head home with hockey golds

Successful tournaments for the western Canadian teams, while Nunavut had a hard time in front of the home crowd

The hockey tournaments ended Thursday in Iqaluit with gold medals to the boys from Alberta North and the girls of NWT.

Playing in the AWG Arena outside Iqaluit, the Alberta North boys took the gold in a 5-4 victory on a last minute goal. Alaska ended third, Nunavut fourth and Yukon fifth.

NWT's Connor Fleming, 14, was the

tournament's high scorer with 14 goals.

The girls played their gold match in the Arnaitok Arena in downtown Iqaluit. NWT won 5-1 over Alberta North. Alaska won the bronze medal game over Yukon. Nunavut finished fifth.

NWT's Davina McLeod, 18, led all scorers with eight goals.

By Trine Juncher Jørgensen
ulunews@awg2016.gl



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

The girls from NWT won the gold match against Alberta North



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Next stop Greenland. The hundred or so hockey players are now in Nuuk



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen



**NUNATSINNI
 INOQARFINNI
 TAMANI IPPUGUT**





Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss

No polar bear's gonna stop him

Living in extreme northern Greenland poses special challenges for snowshoer Abel Jensen, but he promises he'll be back for a second AWG

By Marie Kuitse Kristensen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Six months ago, Team Greenland's Abel Jensen was unaware he was going to be at the starting line of the snowshoe competition this week. Jensen finished second-to-last in the final of the snowshoe run yesterday, but said he was satisfied, given that he was new to the sport, and that living in Qaanaaq, some 2,000km north of Nuuk, had put unique limitations on his ability to train.

Jensen said he hit the trails as soon as the snow began falling last autumn, but snow time in Qaanaaq also coincides with the onset of polar night. On top of that, comes the risk of running into a polar bear during training runs.

Instead, Jensen concentrated mostly on

indoor training, where he worked on building muscle mass.

Not being able to train properly, Jensen admitted, made it difficult to master proper technique.

"It's hard. You need to focus on it the entire time, otherwise you lose your snowshoe or fall."

Being at the back of the pack didn't take away from the AWG experience, he said.

"It was tough, but meeting young people from other countries was encouraging. This is an experience I'm never going to forget. My goal now is to make it to the next Arctic Winter Games."



Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss

Abel Jensen pledges AWG2016 won't be his last Games



Photo: AWG2016/Lars Weiss

Frederikke Nielsen also competed in her first AWG this week

Ending on a high note

The finals in the open one foot high kick ended yesterday with gold medals to Melanie Curtis, Team Alberta North, with a kick of 2.36m, and to Makiyan Ivanoff, Team Alaska, who bested the field with a kick of 2.79m.

Considered the marquee discipline of Arctic Sports, the one foot high kick requires athletes to jump in the air and kick a ball and then land on the same foot.





Photo: AWG2016/Bo Ø. Kristensen

Silver-ulu winner Deseray Cumberbatch of Team Nunavik-Quebec makes an attempt during the open women's final yesterday

Pain is weakness leaving the knuckles

Knuckle hop is a painful discipline. Participants begin in a push-up position and then hop as far as they can on their knuckles. Afterwards, their hands have to be looked at by a medic.

Team NWT's Christopher Daniel Stipdonk won the gold ulu in today's final. Kyle Worl and Nick Hanson, both from Team Alaska, took the silver and bronze.



Photo: AWG2016/Bo Ø. Kristensen



Photo: AWG2016/Bo Ø. Kristensen

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Adding value to business



Photo: Malu Pedersen

Hans-Peter Anianssen is homeless but has been volunteering every day

Hopefully helping out

One homeless man is hoping that volunteering during AWG2016 will help him to find a job

By Malu Pedersen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Hans-Peter Anianssen has been homeless since 2009. That, however, has not stopped the 49-year-old from volunteering during AWG2016. For six hours each day for the past week he has been helping with security at sleeping accommodations and other venues.

"I wanted to help because I want to meet people from other northern countries, and because I like their language," said Anianssen.

Anianssen often noticed that others see the homeless as lazy. Volunteering was his way of helping to change that

stereotype.

"As a volunteer I got experience in a lot of areas. And I got the opportunity to show others that the homeless can do something and contribute to society. Many homeless are willing to help others. We are not so different. We have feelings too," he said.

Anianssen was happy to help and thinks working as a volunteer will help him to get a job. During the Games, he met a number of people who said they would help him find work.



Air Greenland – Getting you on board Arctic Winter Games 2016!

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Photo: Malik Brøns

The other side of the snowmobile tracks

By Malik Brøns
ulunews@awg2016.gl

We'll all remember Nuuk as the city that hosted AWG2016. But what most probably didn't get the chance to discover was the mountains that make for a great getaway for city residents and visitors alike. Here's what you missed.



Photo: Malik Brøns



Photo: Malik Brons



Photo: Malik Brons



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Photo: Malik Brons



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Away-from-home schooling

When the nearest school is 1,200km from where your family is, homesickness is both a curse and a blessing

By Malu Pedersen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Tukumminnguaq Nykjær Olsen, 28, was born and raised in Qaanaaq, the northernmost town in Greenland. Her high school, however, was some 1,200km to the south, in Aasiaat. Her university, where she is studying sociology, is 700km further away, in Nuuk.

The immense distance meant that none of her other classmates in Qaanaaq went on to high school. Being away from family and friends, she admits, is hard, but also necessary.

"It was hard at first to have to travel to another city where they speak another dialect that I didn't understand. I still feel homesick everyday, but my goal is to have a job, so it is vital that I complete my education."

A combination of vast size and tiny population makes education an immense challenge for Greenlandic authorities. But for students and authorities, the challenge can be even greater. Only a few towns are large enough to support more than an elementary school. There is one university.

For Olsen to fly home from Aasiaat cost 20,000 kroner, more than full month's salary for most Greenlanders. Olsen said

she was mentally ready to be away from home when she began high school, as well as the reality of being able to return only during her summer holiday, thanks in large part to the emphasis her parents place on her education.

"Whenever I feel homesick they always remind me that when I finish my education I am going to work with something I love," she said.

Being away from home isn't all bad, however. She says it has reinforced the value of having a healthy social network.

"If I want to go home, my classmates start asking questions about what I would do there. They remind me there is nothing to do in Qaanaaq. That's when you realize how important it is to finish your education if you want to be able to support yourself or others.

Naaja Nathanielsen, an independent member of Inatsisartut, Greenland's national assembly, agreed that being separated from home could be a strength.

"Education is very much about persistence. That is important when you have a dream to pursue. It is part of being student. It's not easy and it must not be easy," she said.

PROVIDING ENERGY NUKISSAMIK TUNISISUT



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Nanoq sponsorit Brugseni peqataasunut tamanut kajumissutsiminnillu suleqataasunut nerisassanik mamartunik peqqinnartunillu isumaginillunilu sassaalliissaaq.

Oqaasinnaatut sanatissimasarput tassaalluni »Providing Energy/Nukissamik tunisisut«, tassuuna takutinniarlugu Brugseni nukissamik tunisisuusooq ukununga timersortartunut, kulturikkut suliniutilinnut kajumissutsiminnillu suleqataasunut, taakkua piffissartik, sapinngisatik piginnaasatillu atorlugit peqataalluarmata.

Suleqatigiit Brugseni piareerput

Brugseni Arctic Winter Games-imut peqataasorpassuarnut nerisassanik peqqinnartunik mamarunartunillu sassaalliinissaminut piareerpoq.

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We have created the slogan »Providing Energy/Nukissamik tunisisut« to show that Brugseni supplies good energy to the athletes, the cultural representatives, and all the volunteers who diligently give of their time, their talents and their skills.

The Brugseni team is ready

Brugseni is ready to serve healthy and delicious food to the many people participating in the Arctic Winter Games.

Brugseni

All the AWG that's fit to print

AWG2016 provided a challenge for more than just the athletes taking part. For the student journalists that had to cover them, the past week has been an exhilarating experience

By Martine Lind Krebs
ulunews@awg2016.gl

For those of you who thought that the Ulu News team was a group of chain-smoking reporters with a press card stuck in the band of their fedora hats should think again. The majority of the content was produced by students at Greenland's Ilisimatusarfik School of Journalism.

In all, 11 Greenlandic students wrote articles and took pictures. One of them, Marie Kuitse Kristensen, said the week had been as challenging as it was interesting.

"It gave us the chance to put the things we've learned in school into use," she said.

She found it difficult to speak with people from foreign countries but felt the effort had been worth it.

"They're so filled with positive energy. They're just so happy to be here."

The students were divided into two groups that alternated making each day's edition.

Malik Brøns was another of the stu-

dents who contributed to Ulu News this week. Readers may not recognize his name, but they are no doubt familiar with his pictures, including the front page of Thursday's edition.

"I was assigned the task of photographing and interviewing the people I took pictures of. It's been challenging to talk to people and capture them in action, but the participants turned out to be very open and easy to talk to."

Brøns found the daily deadline to be the greatest challenge.

"I really felt like staying a little longer at the various venues, but I had to get back to the newsroom to start editing," he said.

Brøns's favorite picture during the Games was a portrait of Team Yukon skier Katie Wowk.

During the week, the students received help from four reporters from SermitsiaqAG, a Greenlandic news outlet, as well as their instructors.



Ulu News group 1: Malik Brøns, Martine Lind Krebs, Paarnaq Hansen, Marie Kuitse Kristensen, Gaba Olsen, Malu Lange Pedersen and Signe Ravn Højgaard



Ulu News Team 2: Kevin McGwin, mascot Kuluk, Ane-Marie Petersen, Naimah Hussain, Nita Jul Larsen, Nathan Kreutzmann, Winnie Filemons (back row), and Nukaaka Tobiassen, Paninnguaq Steenholdt, and Martine Lind Krebs (front row).



Malik Brøns's best shot during AWG16: Team Yukon skier Katie Wowk with reflections in her goggles



Ulu News student reporters Gaba Olsen and Marie Kuitse Kristensen at work during the snowstorm on the first day of AWG2016



The logo for AWG 2018 shows a pack of wolves.

South Slave to host AWG 2018

The towns of Hay River and Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, have been selected to organize the next Arctic Winter Games

By Martine Lind Krebs
 ulunews@awg2016.gl

The next Arctic Winter Games will be held in 2018 in the South Slave area of Canada's Northwest Territories.

The Games will be organised jointly by the towns of Hay River and Fort Smith in the area south of Great Slave Lake, in the southern part of NWT.

Hay River last hosted the Games in 1978 together with the now-abandoned mining town of Pine Point. Hay River and Fort Smith also bid to host the 2008 games but were beat out by Yellowknife.

"We thank the International Committee for making this possible. Hosting the Arctic Winter Games in a small community like ours means that the Games will be

the pulse of the entire community," said Greg Rowe, the chairman of the South Slave AWG organising committee.

The Arctic Winter Games are hosted in rotation between NWT, Yukon, Nunavut, Alberta, Alaska and Greenland.

At present, 18 sports are on the program for the 2018 Games. Only downhill skiing has been left off, but there is still a chance table tennis could be included.

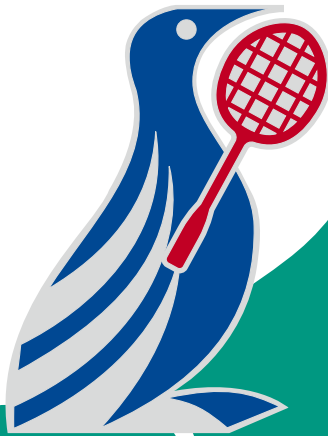
Table tennis was not included in the original bid because there was no table-tennis federation in NWT at the time. A federation has since been established, and table tennis has been included.

Read the winning bid [here](#).

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Work for 2018 Games begins now

The South Slave hosting committee heads home from Nuuk with inspiration and a long list of things to do

By Martine Lind Krebs
ulunews@awg2016.gl

When Hay River and Fort Smith welcome participants to the Arctic Winter Games in 2018, it will only be the fourth time that two communities have co-hosted the Games. Greg Rowe, the president of the South Slave AWG hosting committee, sees this as a sign that it will be easier for small communities to host future AWGs.

"We are appreciative of the International Committee for allowing this. Hosting the Arctic Winter Games in a small community like ours means that the Games will be the pulse of the entire community," he said.

Another advantage, according to Rowe, is that athletes will be able to walk to most venues. A challenge, on the other hand, will be providing enough accommodation.

"We will have to be creative."

Rowe himself participated in figure skating at AWG1976, winning three ulus. He has also coached hockey teams to ulus. Hay River has a population of 3,600. Fort Smith 2,500. The distance between the towns is 272km. Chartered flights will transport participants between the two host communities. Hay River has hosted

numerous sports events before, including serving as the venue for the NWT Track and Field Championships for the past 25 years.

"But Arctic Winter Games are really special and we are excited about hosting them. It will get us back into the circum-polar world," Rowe said.

A widely attended pep-rally hosted last year, showed that the organizers have the full backing of their communities.

"This will be the biggest event ever in our region."

Kevin Smith, the director of AWG2018 media and marketing, has been on hand in Nuuk this week. While here, he observed the importance of having a large number of volunteers.

"We're going to need almost every single person in South Slave being involved," he said.

The AWG2018 games run from March 17-24, but Smith said the work is already under way.

"I've noticed the countdown clock for AWG2016 is down to 0:00. Our countdown now begins."



Former AWG hosts

- 1970 Yellowknife, NWT
- 1972 Whitehorse, Yukon
- 1974 Anchorage, Alaska
- 1976 Schefferville, Quebec
- 1978 Hay River/Pine Point, NWT
- 1980 Whitehorse, Yukon
- 1982 Fairbanks, Alaska
- 1984 Yellowknife, NWT
- 1986 Whitehorse, Yukon
- 1988 Fairbanks, Alaska
- 1990 Yellowknife, NWT
- 1992 Whitehorse, Yukon
- 1994 Slave Lake, Alberta
- 1996 Chugiak/Eagle River, Alaska
- 1998 Yellowknife, NWT
- 2000 Whitehorse, Yukon
- 2002 Nuuk, Greenland/Iqaluit, Nunavut
- 2004 Wood Buffalo, Alberta
- 2006 Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska
- 2008 Yellowknife, NWT
- 2010 Grande Prairie, Alberta
- 2012 Whitehorse, Yukon
- 2014 Fairbanks, Alaska



Photo: Rasmus Preston

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The Inukshuk Express with the logos of the AWG on its side. It was the first passenger train in NWT

The return of the Inukshuk Express

The original Inukshuk Express took athletes back and forth from Hay River to Pine Point during the 1978 Games. Now the AWG2018 committee plans to set the express in motion once again

By Martine Lind Krebs
ulunews@awg2016.gl

When Hay River and Fort Smith host the Arctic Winter Games in two years it will be the second time for Hay River. The 1978 Games were held in the town together with the now-abandoned community of Pine Point.

A coach train named Inukshuk Express was used to ferry spectators between host towns. It was provided as a courtesy to the Games by Canadian Rail. At that time it was the first passenger train in NWT. For many of the children participating in AWG1978 the Inukshuk Express was their first train ride.

The AWG2018 organizing committee plans to bring back the Inukshuk Express to commemorate the 1978 Games.

“Many people have asked about the

Inukshuk Express. We will try to recreate the memories of the 1978 Games,” Greg Rowe, the president of the AWG2018 host committee, said.

If all goes according to plan, the 2018 Inukshuk Express will transport guests from downtown Hay River to the old town.

With no rails in Hay River the Inukshuk Express will have to be on wheels this time, though. In order to give the coaches a rail feel, they will be decorated with pictures from the first Inukshuk Express and AWG1978.

Read about the first Inukshuk Express [here](#).

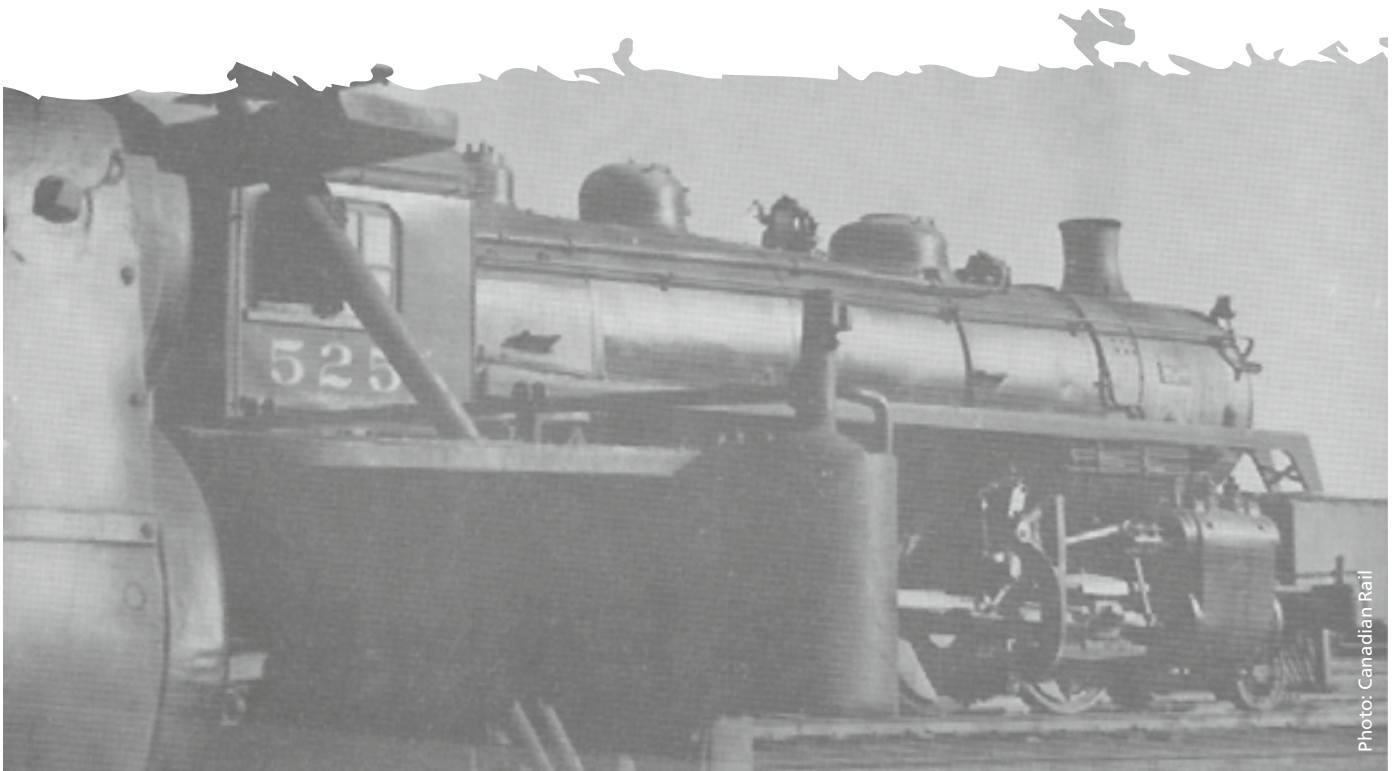


Photo: Canadian Rail



by KIMIK iT

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Nunavut turns down 2020 Games

High winds, frigid temperatures and the lack of facilities in one place has led Iqaluit to pass on hosting AWG2020

By Trine Juncher Jørgensen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Team Nunavut athletes will have to wait until at least 2026 to perform in front of a home crowd.

A Government of Nunavut review of what it would take to host the Games in 2020 led to a decision to request an amendment to the hosting rotation until 2026 or later, according to Kyle Seeley, the territory's director of sport and recreation.

Part of the reason is that Nunavut lacks the facilities to host an AWG on its own, and operating a satellite location would have made hosting too expensive.

"There is certainly a cost-factor related to utilizing satellite locations and the need to duplicate services. A really big factor is also the athlete's experience, when they come to Nunavut for the Games. We certainly want them to have a very positive experience and a big part of that is the multi-sport environment," he said.

Even with the use of satellite venues, Sweeney said Nunavut lacks sites where it can hold cross-country skiing, ski biathlon, alpine skiing, snowboard and snowshoe events.

"We do have big hills here, but we don't have alpine facilities. Combined with the geographic limitations, the venue issue would make hosting the Arctic Winter Games challenging. We do have facilities for many of the indoor competitions like curling, skating and hockey, so a co-host role would suit us better," he said.

And then there is the weather. It's simply too cold and windy to be outside in March in Nunavut, where the average temperature is in the -30s.

"We have plenty of snow, but the temperature and the wind conditions are not acceptable for competition standards," Sweeney said.

This year's partnership between Iqaluit and Nuuk is a model Sweeney feels should be used more for future Arctic Winter Games.

Hosting AWG2020 Nunavut would have marked the first time the six permanent members of the Arctic Winter Games – Alaska, Yukon, NWT, Nunavut, Alberta North and Greenland – were able to host in succession.

Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit could be used to house AWG participants



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Iqaluit has two suitable ice arenas: Arnaitok Arena and the more modern AWG Arena, where the hockey games took place this year



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Iqaluit lacks facilities for ski sports

Remember your time

AWG2016 is over, but for the athletes who participated the experience will stay with them

By Gaaba Olsen
ulunews@awg2016.gl



Maja Olsen, 14
Sisimiut, Greenland
Alpine skiing

What was your best experience at AWG2016?
The competing. But I also made friends from Yukon, Alaska and Nunavut. We had a lot of fun

What is your favorite pin?
The polar bear that an athlete from Yukon traded with me.

What have you learned during AWG2016 that you will use later on?
Arctic Winter Games was big opportunity for me, I can use it as training for the upcoming national championship.



Brad Sigurdson, 14
Nunavut
Hockey

What was your best experience at AWG2016?
There are no rinks in Nuuk so we played in Iqaluit. But it was a good experience playing in front of a home crowd.

What is your favorite pin?
I got a fair play pin for good sportsmanship, and being a good at making new friends.

What have you learned during AWG2016 that you will use later on?
Whatever you do, don't quit. Sapiliqtailigit is Inuktitut and means 'never stop, keep going'.



Ty Plamondon, 16
Alberta, Grande Prairie
Wrestling

What was your best experience at AWG2016?
Being here in Greenland. It has been a really great experience just being here.

What have you learned during AWG2016 that you will use later on?
Hard work! By training a lot, you can get very far.



Talia Halverson, 13
Alaska, Girdwood
Alpine Skiing

What was your best experience at AWG2016?
The course was a lot of fun. The weather was great one day. I really like the colorful houses here, it's really cool.

What is your favorite pin?
I really like bronze Arctic Winter Games pin. I got it from an official.



Jimmy Emudluk, 18
Nunavik, Quebec
Dene Games

What was your best experience at AWG2016?
Getting my first medals, and meeting new friends and people.

What is your favorite pin?
The pin I got from Greenland was really good. It was a good deal.

Which Greenlandic words have you learnt?
I've learned a few words, like qujanaq ('thanks'), takuss' ('see you later'), tikilluarit ('welcome'). A funny one I learned is usuup puua ('condom').

What have you learned during AWG2016 that you will use later on?
Confidence, effort and perseverance.



Photo: AWG2016/Vagn Hansen

Arjun Budgell, 12
Futsal
Yellowknife, NWT

What was your best experience at AWG2016?
This is my first AWG. I'm having fun, and I like being in Nuuk and making friends.

What is your favorite pin?
The polar bear from Alaska. I traded it.

What have you learnt during AWG that you will use later on?
Work hard!



Photo: AWG2016/Vagn Hansen

Tyra Jones, 15
Futsal
Whitehorse, Yukon

What was your best experience at AWG2016?
We tied Team North Alberta yesterday, which was great, because they usually beat us.

What is your favorite pin?
A polar bear from Alaska. Some girls walked into our room in the first day, and we bonded, so we traded pins.

Which Greenlandic words have you learnt?
I learned qujanaq ('thanks').

What have you learned during AWG2016 that you will use later on?
I got a lot experience from seeing how the other countries play futsal.

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Puuuush!

Imagine tug of war in reverse and you've got the concept for the Dene Games pole push event.

In yesterday's finals, Team Greenland drove its way to a gold in the male open division, beating Team Nunavik Quebec. Team Alaska won bronze. During the junior competition earlier in the day Team Nunavut out-pushed Team Nunavik Quebec for the gold. Team Alaska was again third.

On the women's side, Team NWT claimed gold over Team Alaska in the junior female division, while Team Alberta North finished third. In the juvenile female event, it was Team NWT again with a win, this time over Team Nunavik Quebec. Team Alberta North rounded out the medal winners.

Click on the page to see footage from yesterday's action.



The announcer deserved an ulu for best outfit

Photo: Kevin McGwin



Team Greenland won with a coordinated attack

Photo: AWG 2016/Lars Weiss



Parting memes

We found some people who definitely live up to the Arctic Winter Games' motto: JOIN. FEEL. JUMP.

The staff of Ulu News thanks all the participants of AWG2016 for making the past week a great one. Hope to see you in South Slave in 2018!

