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Eskimo Olympics, 1972 (KUAC) Interview Of James Sielak And Joe Kagak During Body Carry, No Music.

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Notes: Originals on 7 inch reels. Master and circulation copies on CD.

The interviewer (sounds like Paul Quist) asks a man what he did yesterday in the Eskimo Olympics. The man responds that he did the swing kick and the double boot high kick. The man describes the swing kick. He balanced on the floor, held up with the palms of the hands flat on the floor and kicked up four or five times. The feet must come down before stopping balancing on the hands. The kick is hard on the abdominal muscles. The men practice before the Olympics, gathering all their kin together, splitting into teams, and playing games to practice. The man being interviewed also participated in the Inuvik games last month. He says those games are just about the same as the ones here. The man says he started doing the swing kick quite a while ago. He was 18 when he started participating in these games. He is 19 now. Every year the people of Inuvik play their northern games. People from all the settlements gather together and play, similar to here. The man learned to do the swing kick from the games in Inuvik. A coach over there teaches people how to do the games. The man advises anyone who wants to do the swing kick to just give it a try. The man kicked 4'6" and was the winner of the swing kick event. He also entered the double boot high kick. In this event you have to kick and land with two feet. The man says he often does the double boot high kick for fun. He first learned this kick quite a while ago when they first started the northern games. There are many people in Inuvik that can do the high kick. Their record high kicks are just about the same as here.

The interview speaks with another man about the games in Inuvik. This man sounds much older than the previous interviewee. He has participated in the knuckle hop. The man says he loves his people. They are good, nice people. He wants to help the people in Fairbanks. He wants the people in Fairbanks to win. He tried really hard to help them. He says he is an Eskimo from Barrow and wants to help Fairbanks or Barrow. The man introduces himself. He is James Sielak from Barrow. He wants to help the students of University of Alaska and all over Alaska. James says he likes doing the games his own native way. He says he is 37 years old. He says he did the high kick all the time when he was a kid, but not anymore because he is too old.

The tape cuts out. There is a man announcing things in the background and a crowd, talking and applauding. The man being interviewed, Joe Kagak, is describing the four man carry that is the event currently in progress. The announcer in the background says that the participant carried four men 32 feet. Joe explains that before the man starts walking, all of the four men he is carrying have to be not touching the floor. He explains that you must balance yourself well and that it is very demanding on the leg muscles. The announcer in the background says that the record still stands at 38'5". Joe explains

who holds onto who and how during the four man carry. He says that he has carried two men and tried carrying four but he can't walk with them; he can't even get them off the ground. Joe says that this is his fourth year participating in the Eskimo Olympics. He says that he hasn't won anything yet in this 1972 Olympics. He has won the high kicks in the past. Both of his records, 7' for the double boot high kick and 7'8" for the single legged high kick, have been broken this year.