

# SPORTS

## Indigenous, Continued from Last Page

The players have set their own agenda for the North American Indigenous Games. They want to proudly represent Akwesasne, to meet other Native youth, to experience the experience, and with pride, bring home the Gold!! With these accomplishments, they hope to gain respect by being given this honor to represent the community. They hope that this experience will only strengthen many of their personal desires to develop as better players and perhaps become professional volleyball players.

These youth plan on doing this by playing hard at every opportunity, whether it's at practice or in a tournament. Some have taken on extra training through gym classes, doing stretches at home, jogging, biking and playing volleyball whenever the chance comes around. They have even made choices on their own by reducing junk food or cutting it out altogether, especially soda and greasy foods. Eating more fresh vegetables and fruit gives them more energy. Some of the athletes' grades have improved because they are learning to schedule their lives' many commitments, whereby there's no time to put things off.

Though this team of athletes and coaches are living and breathing volleyball now and for the next 4 months, they want to let the community know how strong they feel about representing Akwesasne. It's important that these messages go both ways. As many know, an expectation of all teams going to the N.A.I.G. games in Minnesota has been to put efforts as a group towards major transportation costs and possibly a warm-up uniform for over 100 athletes; through raffles, requests for donations, etc.

The Akwesasne

Screaming Eagles are doing something a little unique. In consideration for all the support from their parents and elders, this team has taken on another enormous task. Their goal is to fund-raise for bus transportation for their families. This has been accomplished through many hard hours put in by the athletes, coaches, trainers, family contributions and of course, community involvement. Early in the season, they set themselves a budget with hopes to cover all their expenses: team uniforms, meals, and equipment (a task that all teams must do individually). They have held three volleyball tournaments, a walk-a-thon, raffles, an all-day buffet, sold super-bowl squares, etc. A big Thanks goes out to all who have been supportive in any way, with special mention to: Fabian Hart, Minnie Lazore, Border Edge Restaurant and Cedar View Golf Course. They hope that Akwesasne continues to share the pride by continuing to be part of these initiatives.

These young athletes show a special eagerness to learn. They are certainly showing the commitment and respect for all natives to do their very best. So Akwesasne, keep your eyes and ears tuned to their needs. Future Akwesasne Screaming Eagle sponsored events:

**A Golf Starter Set & Club Membership at Cedar View Golf Course**

**A 95/96 Season Passes for the Aces Hockey Games.**

## Akwesasne Youth to Participate in Empire State Games

DeCota (Cody) Thompson, son of Kim and Charles Thompson will compete in the Empire State Games. On April 1 and 2, in Glens Falls, New York, Cody competed with Adirondack Hockey Team and won the opportunity to play defense for the team at the Empire State Games. According to a spokesperson for the Empire State Games the Adirondack team beat the Central Region Hockey Team and won the silver medal.

The team is comprised of the best hockey players from the Adirondack region of New York State. Teams from West-Central New York State, Long Island and New York City will compete, at the games. The games are scheduled to be played from August 3-6, 1995, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Opening ceremonies for the games will take place on August 2. Cody will attend a training camp from July 28 to August 2, at Cheel Arena at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York.

Cody is a sophomore at Salmon River Central High School and has played hockey for the Shamrocks for two years. Cody's hockey Coach selected him to apply for the chance to play for the Adirondack Hockey Team at the games. Try-outs for the competitions are by invitation only and based on Cody's hockey application, he was invited to try-out.

Cody started playing



DeCota (Cody) Thompson, will compete in Empire State Games.  
Photo: Submitted.

hockey when he was six years old. He credits his Grandmother (Venita Loran) with getting him started in hockey. "She took me to apply and bought my equipment", says Cody. He adds, "if it weren't for her I might not be in hockey right now. She really wanted me to play". Cody's parents are proud of their son's achievements in hockey. His mother has maintained a hockey scrapbook of him since he began playing at six years old.

Cody's mother says that they have always encouraged him to play hockey because it was an incentive for him to stay in school and get good grades. She adds that if a student does not perform well academically they may not participate in sports. Looking at Cody's hockey achievements over the last two years one can see that Cody takes hockey seriously. He has the following to his credit for high school hockey:

1993-Lyle C. Crowfoot Memorial Tournament-All

Tournament Team Defense;  
1993-Salmon River Central Christmas Tournament-All Team Defense;  
1994-Salmon River Central Rookie of the Year;  
1995-Malone Winter Carnival High School Hockey Tournament-MVP  
1995-All Northern Athletic Conference-Hockey 1st Defense-Defense  
1995-Watertown Times-All Northern Hockey Team Selections-2nd Team Defense.

Indian Time asked Cody what he liked best about playing hockey. He answered, "I like the thrill of the competition and the speed of the game." When asked if he has any desire to go on to college hockey, he replies with a smile, "I would like to play hockey for Boston University." We asked where he would like to be in five years regarding hockey. A slow grin formed on Cody's face, but he didn't answer. We added, "perhaps playing for a major hockey team?" His grin turned into a slow smile and his head gave a slight nod. Cody is currently involved with summer hockey for the Seaway Valley Summer Bantam Majors.

## Akwesasne Minor Lacrosse Registration

The Akwesasne Minor Lacrosse Registration will take place on Tuesday, April 18, and Thursday, April 20, at the Ahkwesasne Mohawk School (A.M.S.) on Cornwall Island. You may register your child/ren between the hours of 4 pm to 8 pm. Registration fees are \$25.00 per child. If your child should make the travelling team, it will be an extra \$50.00. Please bring your child's OHIP/QHIP card. All registration fees are non-refundable. This registration is for everyone, including the US side and Cornwall.

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