

NUUK 2016
Arctic Winter Games



6 – March 10 2016

ULU NEWS



Photo: Malik Brøns

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Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Chris Kringayark, Jr. is enjoying AWG2016 from the bench after suffering a concussion

Athlete of the day: **Chris Kringayark**

By Trine Juncher Jørgensen
ulunews@awg2016

Chris Kringayark, Jr., 15
Team Nunavut
Hockey

Team Nunavut's bantam boys won their first game in the hockey tournament yesterday, beating Yukon (3-2).

How has your Arctic Winter Games been so far?

I suffered a concussion in our first game, against Team Alberta North. I had to go to the hospital in Iqaluit. I still have a headache, so need to be careful and not play anymore.

What is the best experience you've had so far during AWG2016?

Being with my team here in Iqaluit and playing hockey

What's the worst?

Having a concussion and not being able to play for the next couple of games.

Have you made new friends?

Yes, I like being with my Nunavut teammates. I haven't had time to talk so much with the other players.

How long have you been playing hockey?
For the past three or four years.

What is your goal?

To get better at hockey. Luckily we have an ice arena in Naujaat Bay, where I am from, so I get to play often.

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

Ulu News is the official daily publication for the Arctic Winter Games. During AWG2016, Ulu News will be available for download at www.awg2016.gl each day by 8am. Printed copies of the Sunday, March 6 edition and Thursday, March 10 edition will also be available. The first AWG2016 edition was published in October 2015.

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

Brugseni

MEDALS BY TEAM

Contingent	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Alaska	37	30	34	101
Alberta North	14	14	6	34
Greenland	8	6	8	22
NWT	4	4	9	17
Nunavik-Quebec	4	1	1	6
Nunavut	1	6	12	19
Sapmi	4	3	1	8
Yamal	0	2	0	2-
Yukon	16	23	14	53



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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 contestants 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 throughout these games.

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

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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 Grønlandsk jord.



NUUK 2016
Arctic Winter Games



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The AWG Gala Show



Photo: AWG2015/Helle Norregaard

Yamal

Tatiana Lar is the most famous Nenet folk singer. On stage during the Gala Show she sang traditional Nenet songs in her native language and played a Yamal drum made from reindeer hide. She wore a beautiful Nenet costume. Lar learned to sing from her mother, and now works as a singing instructor when not performing, said Alyona Køhler, a Team Yamal delegate.

Yukon

Yukon's six-person Team Culture also goes by the name Cold Fusion. Their performance for the Gala Show was a fusion of music and dancing. It describes what happens when children from northern regions travel south to big cities and realize that home is good, said cultural director Andrea Simpson Fowler. Cold Fusion wrote the lyrics and did the choreography themselves.

Greenland

Team Greenland's performance is based on the traditional Greenlandic myth of the creation of the sun and the moon. It's the story of the seasons and how they existed for the first time after the sun and the moon had been created, according to cultural director Kristian Mølgaard. The team consists of six performers. To find them Mølgaard held auditions with performers from around Greenland over FB Messenger and Skype. Madelaine Gordon co-directed the show.

Sapmi

The yoik is a unique song technique that was central to the Sapmi performance on Wednesday, together with Sapmi and modern songs. The three performers each represented one of the AWG Sapmi countries: Norway, Sweden and Finland. They hadn't met before travelling to Greenland, but that's not a problem, since they are all professional performers, according to cultural director Håkan Kuark.



Nunavut

Pinivarrua Nunavut means 'I am home in Nunavut' in Inuktitut, and was name of the traditional song the six members of Nunavut's Team Culture sang during the Gala Show. They also performed throat-singing and drum-dancing. All six performers know each other from their high-school choir. In addition to practicing, the team has spent time in Nuuk learning traditional Greenlandic dancing. "We will do something like that when we get back," said cultural director Mary Piercy.

Nunavik

Team Culture Nunavik put on a performance that fused traditional and modern music. They performed traditional Inuit songs, rock songs and throat-singing with a hint of beat-boxing. The band calls itself Qullik Band. They have played together for two years in their hometown of Puvirnituq, according to team chaperone Saima Mark.

Alberta North

The show from Alberta North combines different genres such as traditional East Indian dancing, storytelling, acting and rock n' roll. The three performers from Fort McMurray spent the last three months rehearsing their show, said cultural director Michelle Thorne. The team did their own choreography and compositions.

NWT

Two sets of twin-fiddlers make up Team Culture NWT. During the Gala Show they played traditional Canadian Métis songs. The performance last night actually wasn't their Greenland premiere: that was in the airport cafeteria in Kangerlussuaq. "We're doing a Greenland tour," joked cultural director Cayley Thomas, who co-directs with Tiffany Ayalik.

Alaska

Heather Werning was solo on stage in the Team Alaska Gala Show with a performance that involved twirling batons, knives, flags and glow batons. Werning, her state's champion in solo and dance twirl, is a trained performer. Her show was accompanied by Inuit music and modern songs. "We wanted to combine the traditional and contemporary way of expressing identity," said Katie Cueva, who is cultural director together with Joann Werning, Heather's mother.



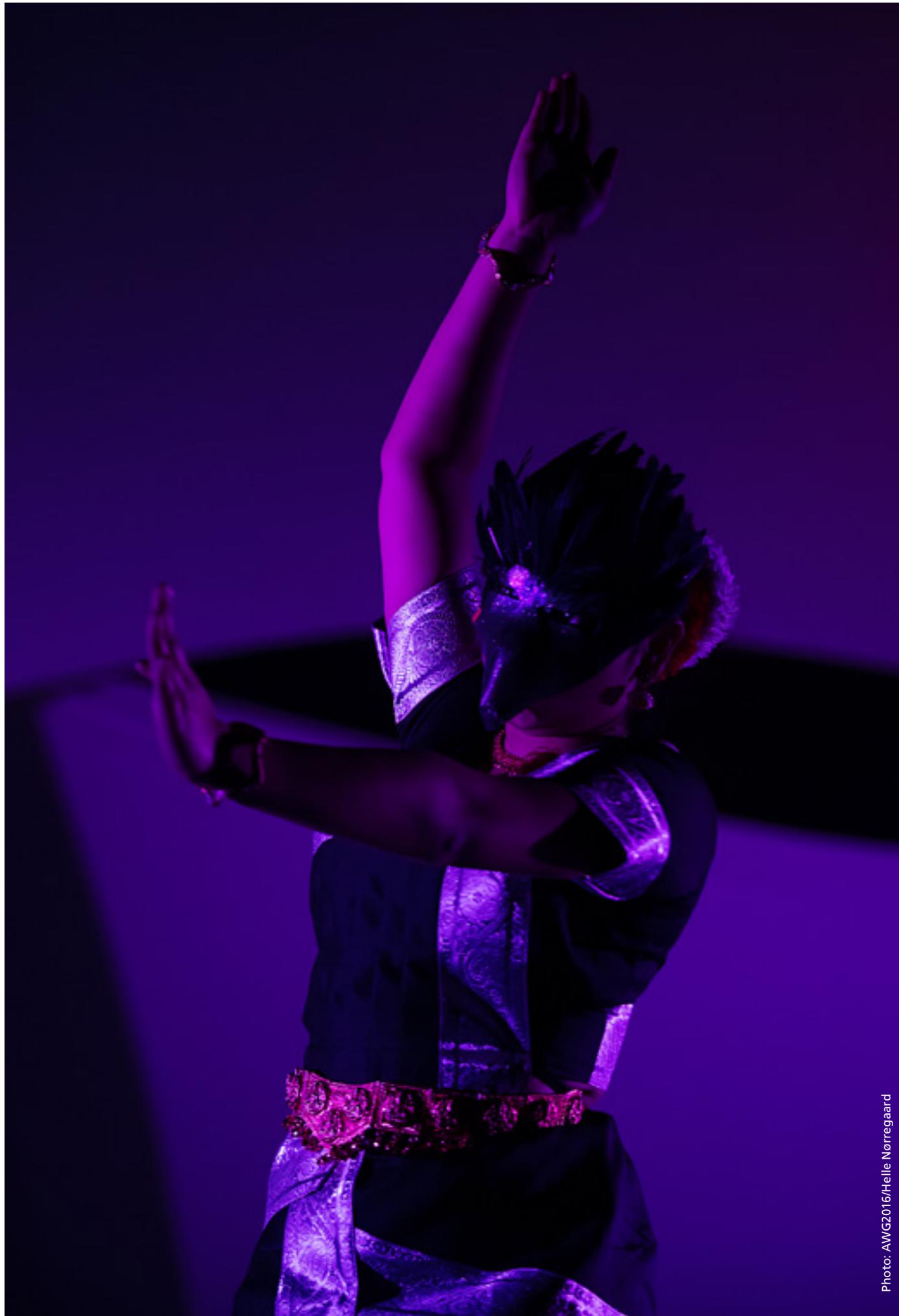


Photo: AWG2016/Helle Nørregaard



Photo: AWG2016/Helle Norregaard



Photo: Angu Matzfeldt / NAPA

"Kingorna"-group taking a selfie. Josef Tarrak is standing in the back.

From Myth to Musical Dance

Greenlandic myth about Aningaaq and Maliina to be performed in Katuaq by six young artists.

By Nathan Kreutzmann
ulunews@awg2016.gl

In earlier times, amongst Greenlandic people, hot séances took place in the small peat huts (traditional Inuit houses made of peat). As lamps were extinguished, adults had sex in the darkness without being able to identify the partner. In a famous myth, a young woman, Maliina, was horrified when she discovered that she had had sex with her very own brother Aningaaq. So embarrassed by this fact, she runs off only to be chased after by her brother. In one variation of the myth, they run so fast, that eventually they take off into the sky, where Maliina becomes the sun and her brother Aningaaq the moon.

This Greenlandic myth was interpreted at the AWG 2016 gala show in the Culture House Katuaq yesterday under the title "Kingorna", which roughly translated means "Since Then".

"The myth about Aningaaq and Maliina is very special, and I decided to interpret what could have happened after Maliina became the sun and Aningaaq the moon. The show is a musical dance performance. We will show how the very first seasons might have passed," said Kristian Mølgaard, director of "Kingorna".

The co-director of "Kingorna" is Norwegian dancer and singer Madelaine Gordon Graadahl. When first introduced to this myth about Aningaaq and Maliina, Gordon found it a bit over the top:

"In the beginning, I at first had to understand Greenlandic mythology. I think it is grotesque that the myth about

Aningaaq and Maliina is shared as a story to children. But Greenlandic myths and legends are not as taboo as you may experience in other countries," said Graadahl.

One of six young performers is 17 years old Josef Tarrak from the small settlement of Napasoq on the West-coast of Greenland. He started breakdancing two years ago.

"It is a different set of dance moves. I'm very excited, and I am looking forward to being able to show our performance at Katuaq. It is going to be a very special performance, because we are going to perform it to our own country-fellowmen and to foreign visitors right here in our own country", said Tarrak.

The director had chosen six Greenlandic performers, and he is happy with his dance crew.

"They are young very dedicated performers and dancers, and they are very keen on showing their ability. The atmosphere is really good amongst them and the team, and they are working really well together," said Mølgaard.

NAPA (The Nordic Institute in Greenland) is behind the project "Kingorna" which was an important cultural element at the gala show in Katuaq during AWG 2016.

The music is composed by Qillannguaq Berthelsen, Alexander Montgomery-Andersen is behind the choreography, and the light designer is Naleraq Eugenius.

The gala show is to be repeated tonight at 7pm.

The North Atlantic Champion

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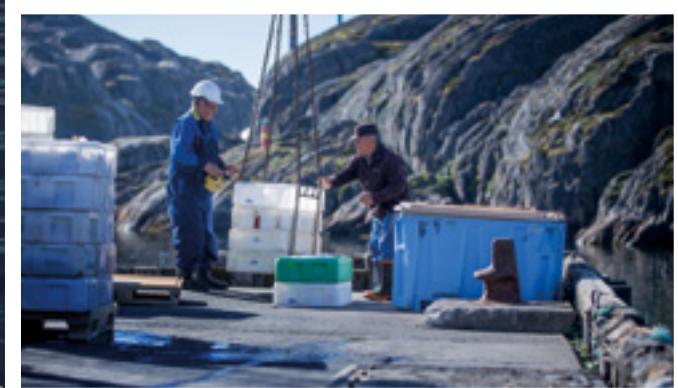
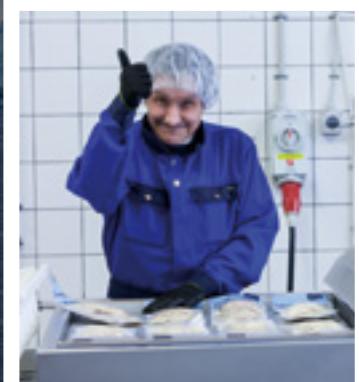
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Photo: Leifff Josefson

Noise, colors, hiding and guessing all go into the hand games

Poker face

To win an ulu in hand games, you need to confuse the competition. AWG2016 teams revealed some of their secrets

By Noah Mølgaard
ulunews@awg2016.gl

The thump of drums, whoops of teammates and confused expressions of spectators reverberated through the GUX foyer yesterday.

It was the hand games event of the Dene Games, a competition known for being noisy enough that coaches and even some in the audience wear hearing protection.

First, for the confused: during hand games, teams take turns hiding an object in one of their hands and trying to guess which hand their competitor might be holding it in.

"I try to clench the hand that is holding the object tighter and keep the empty hand looser in order to confuse the competitors," said Hullik Gadbois Kudluk, from Team Nunavik, during a break in the juvenile competition yesterday.

Each time a competitor guesses wrong, a point is earned.

Some hand-games participants paint their faces with intimidating designs and

others paint their flags on their forehead or cheeks. Some wear native clothes. Others ties or business attire.

Kudluk's secret earned Team Nunavut two gold ulus in the girl's competition.

"Facial expressions play a big role, too, but so does making quick moves that can confuse the opposition," said Stan Swetzof, the Team Alaska junior boys' coach, when pressed to reveal more of the sport's tactics.

Another essential aspect of hand games is the drumming. The noise helps confuse competitors, but that requires a drummer to be active for several hours at a time.

"You drink a lot of water when you're drumming for so many hours," Lorne Powder, from Team NWT said. He recalls one competition in which he drummed from 7pm until 5am.

Fortunately for the competitors and everyone's ears, the competition yesterday did not last that long.



Photo: Kevin McGwin



Photo: Kevin McGwin

Safety equipment, hand-games style



Photo: Leifff Josefson

Drummers need to be ready to play for hours on end, according to Lorne Powder (white cap)



Photo: Leifff Josefson

Hand-games competitors go at it at GUX yesterday



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It's a bird. It's plane. It's slopestyle!

Slopestyle involves huge jumps and lots of big airs. But most of the competitors we caught up with were pretty down to earth. As soon as they came down to earth

By Malik Brøns
ulunews@awg2016.gl



Photo: Malik Brøns



Photo: Malik Brøns

Pipaluk Rasmussen, 16
Sisimiut, Greenland

How long have you been riding snowboard?
About two years.

What are your expectations for today?
I'm very excited, mainly I want to focus on my balance. I just started training last week, but I think I can win two or three medals.

Which tricks are you planning?
I want to do a front board, ride the box like and do an Indy grab on the big jump.

What is your best experience so far?
My teammates! They are so awesome and I love hanging out with them.



Photo: Malik Brøns

Haydn Johnson, 16
Grand Prairie, Alberta

What are your expectations for today?
It's a bit windy, but I think it will be great. The snow is a bit different than I'm used to. It's soft, but the setup is awesome.

What is your best experience so far?
Definitely the town! It's rocky while at home there are a lot of trees. It's beautiful when the sun is shining. And the culture as well. The food is great, we tried some dried fish yesterday. It's like beef jerky.

Which tricks are you planning?
I usually just wing it, but I'll try to do a back-side 540.



Photo: Malik Brøns

Austin Cox, 18
North Pole, Alaska

How long have you been snowboarding?
For nine years.

What are your expectations for today?
Pretty much to land all my runs and get on the podium.

What's been your best experience in Nuuk so far?
The environment here is great and the people are super friendly.

Which tricks are you planning?
I want to do a double backflip.



Gavin Belka, 16
Anchorage, Alaska

What are your expectations?
I'll do as best as I can. And have fun.

What's been your best experience in Nuuk so far?
The Opening Ceremony, definitely!

Which tricks are you planning?
50-50 nosepress

Photo: Malik Brons



Riley Boland, 10
Whitehorse, Yukon

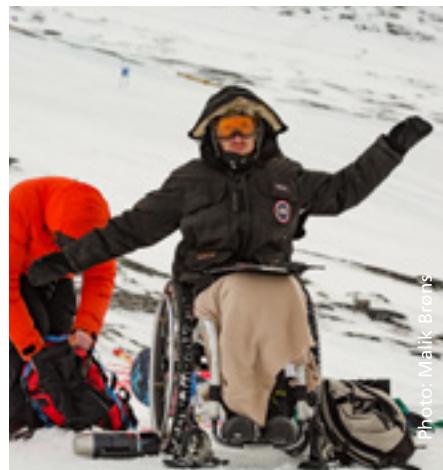
How long have you been snowboarding?
For around two or three years.

What are your expectations?
It's my first time participating in the Arctic Winter Games, so I just want to have fun.

What's been your best experience in Nuuk so far?
I've learned new tricks and jump on the big jump.

Which tricks are you planning?
Hit the box and do trail presses.

Photo: Malik Brons



Darryl Tait, 26
Whitehorse, Yukon
Judge for the freestyle-slopestyle snowboard

What are your expectations?
The progression has been big for the snowboarders. I'm seeing a lot of double flips.

What's your best experience in Nuuk so far?
The people here and the community, they're so helpful especially with me being on the wheelchair it's not easy to get around here.

What happened to your legs?
I broke my back when I was on a snowmobile six years ago. I did a run with a snowmobile and did a jump, but I fell off and the snowmobile landed on me. I used to compete in snowboarding and in the Arctic Winter Games. Now I'm judging the event.

Photo: Malik Brons



Photo: Malik Brons



Photo: Malik Brons



Photo: Malik Brons

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Photo: Malik Brøns

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What's wrestling mean to you?

By Martine Lind Krebs
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Wrestling isn't a big sport in Greenland. In fact, it isn't a sport people do at all. So we asked some of the wrestlers to explain why the sport appeals to them



Photo: AWG2016/Claus Andersen-Aagaard

**Jacob Melanson, 18
Whitehorse, Yukon**

Getting to know people around you in a close sport. Wrestling is not about getting angry, just about having fun.



Photo: AWG2016/Claus Andersen-Aagaard

**Monica Ziegler, 18
Slave Lake, Alberta**

It's when hours and hours of training pays off, the match ends, and you can raise your hand in victory. Then it's all worth it.





Troy Makpah, 15
Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

I don't know. I just like wrestling. My friends told me it was fun, and I wanted to try.

Photo: AWG2016/Claus Andersen-Aagaard



Shaun Walton, 16
Kodiak, Alaska

The competition and the activity. Wrestling isn't necessarily a team sport, but the team is supportive. When I'm out there I feel relaxed. I have no emotions.

Photo: AWG2016/Claus Andersen-Aagaard



Brandon Adams, 16
Yellowknife, NWT

Going to different competitions and exploring new places. People here in Greenland are really nice and there's good scenery with the mountains in the background.

Photo: AWG2016/Claus Andersen-Aagaard

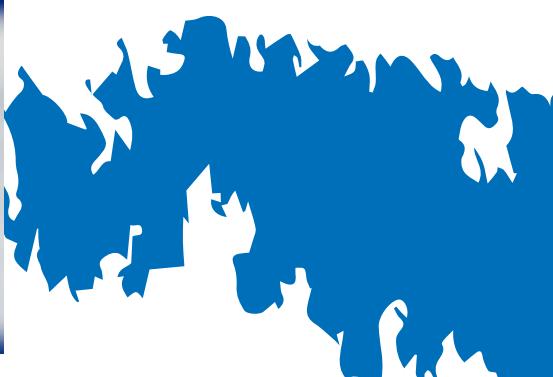




Photo: AWG2016/Claus Andersen-Aagaard



Photo: AWG2016/Claus Andersen-Aagaard



Photo: AWG2016/Claus Andersen-Aagaard

Aw, my neck

The badminton tournament is a head-turning experience. A total of 256 games are being played over four days

By Noah Mølgaard
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Look to one side. Look to the other. Repeat for hours and hours on end. Such is the life of a badminton umpire during a major tournament.

Ten umpires, all from Ilulissat, Greenland, are spending their days looking left, then right, then left, then ... for eight games a day.

"It can be hard for our neck," Hans Lyberth, one of the umpires, said, adding that the cheering and the excitement is another occupational hazard, since it takes a while for them to relax at the end of a day.

The four-day AWG2016 badminton tournament is winding down today at Inussivik field house for both umpires and for players.

"It's the end of a year of preparation," Aron Quan, Team Alberta North, said.

This year, Quan has broken Team

Greenland's traditional dominance of the event by beating Victor Langholz in the quarter finals. Team Alberta North player Dhruv Patel is also in the semifinals.

"I noticed his weakness and took advantage of it," Quan said, admitting that he used the warm up with Langholz before the quarterfinal to get an idea of how he could win.

Badminton started Monday with singles play. The doubles tournament got going Tuesday and preliminaries ended Wednesday. Mixed-doubles and the first semifinals began yesterday.

"I hope to get at least the silver ulu, but you never know what will happen," Quan said.

In Fairbanks during AWG2014, Team Greenland led the medals board in badminton with 15 ulus. Team Alberta North took home 11.

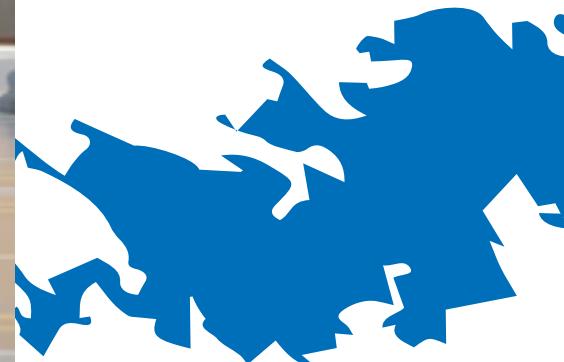


Photo: Leifff Josefson

The badminton tournament ends today



Aron Quan has been training for AWG2016 for a year



Ten umpires from Ilulissat have sat for hours this week. Their necks, on the other hand, have not stayed still

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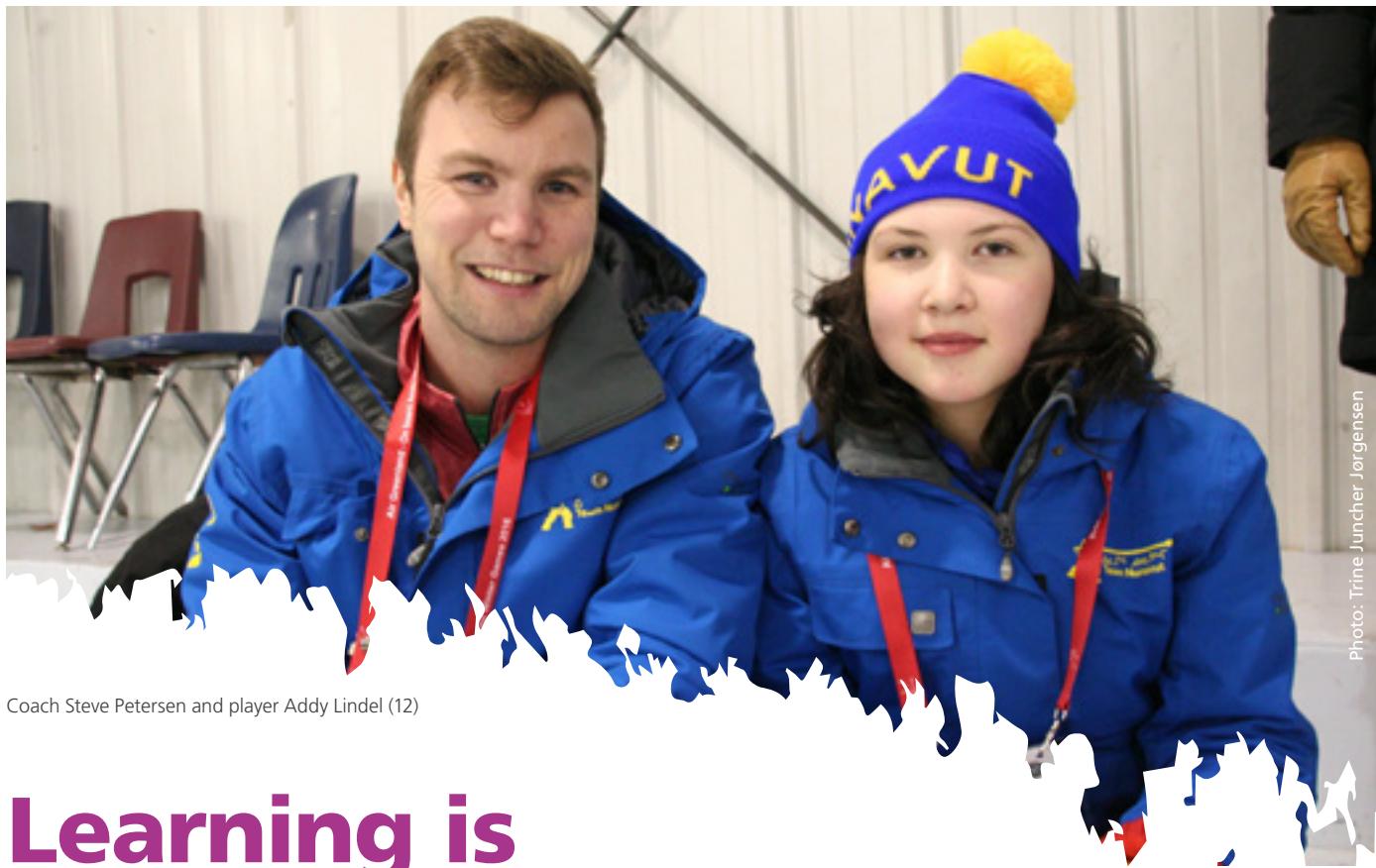


Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Coach Steve Petersen and player Addy Lindel (12)

Learning is Team Nunavut's goal

Team Nunavut has been beaten badly a few times in the female hockey tournament. But with most of its players expected to play in AWG2018, the coach is using this year's Games as a learning experience

By Trine Juncher Jørgensen, Iqaluit
ulunews@awg2016.gl

They may have lost badly a few times, but it has been hard to beat the spirit of Nunavut's girls' hockey team.

"They did their best, and they should be so proud of themselves," coach Steve Petersen said after Team Nunavut lost its first two games in a big way, being beaten first by Team Yukon 13-3 and then by Team Alaska 9-0.

Petersen, though, said he was satisfied, and has told the girls to use these Games as a lesson.

"Success will follow," he said. "They were good at back checking, and I was also

satisfied with the positional players. This is maybe the overall best team Nunavut has had. They've got a lot of potential."

More than half of the players are only 12 or 13, meaning they'll all be ready to take the ice during AWG2018 as experienced players.

"They will be strong in two years if they continue to play together," Petersen said.

Team chemistry, Petersen adds, will be decisive to their success. Instead of cultivating one or two stars, he's placing more importance on having an overall good team.

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Know your pads from your elbow

Hockey bags are heavy.
Like 15 to 20 kilos heavy.
Ever wonder what's
inside? Team NWT
assistant coach Kaylee
Grant and some of the
players showed us around

By Trine Juncher Jørgensen, Iqaluit
ulunews@awg2016.gl



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Pucks

First of all we have the puck, which is hockey's version of a ball. The pucks are small and commonly made from vulcanized rubber.

Sticks

A hockey stick is used to maneuver the puck. Sticks usually made out of wood, fiberglass, titanium or graphite.

1) Skates

Hockey skates are often black with a rounded heel and no toe picks. The blade is razor sharp which allows you to turn really fast. They have to be sharpened before every game.

1) Shin pads

Since the puck is very hard and moves at a high speed, you need something to protect your shins and knees.

2) Elbow pad

Mostly useful for protection when you get hit by a stick.

3) Shoulder and chest pads

When you get checked into the boards, it's good to have some shoulder, chest and back protection.

4) Neck guard

Sometimes the puck can hit you on the neck. Then you're glad you're wearing a neck guard.

Hockey pants

Padded pants provide protection front and rear.

Jersey (also known as a 'sweater')

Normally the jersey is just worn over your protective gear, but sometimes there is a bit of padding in front of the jersey.

Gloves

Help you hold on to the stick and protect your hands and wrist in case they get hit by a puck.

5) Helmet

You are not allowed on the ice without a helmet. The helmet is made out of metal and fiber glass or thermoplastic, while the inside is padded with vinyl nitrile foams in order to reduce shock. Helmets are designed to prevent concussions and head injuries.

Mouth guard

Some players use mouth guard to protect their teeth.

6) Goalie gear

The goal keeper is even more exposed to the puck, so their gear must be extra protective.

The goalie also uses a 'blocker', which is worn on the dominant hand, which is the one they use to hold the stick. It's basically a glove with a rectangular pad with a curve, which is helpful in controlling the puck. The goalie wears a 'catcher' on the other hand. Like a baseball glove, it has a pocket that is used to catch the puck.



Hockey games under way again

Due to a snow storm in Iqaluit Tuesday, the hockey was postponed until 8pm. The junior females played in AWG Arena and the bantam males in Arnaik Arena.

Coming together, right now, over there



Young musicians from Greenland have been in Iqaluit since Sunday jamming with local musicians and reaching a new level of understanding

By Trine Juncher Jørgensen, Iqaluit
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Not everybody involved with AWG2016 is in Nuuk right now. Three young men from Nuuk took the flight to Iqaluit before the opening of the hockey tournament.

They have been busy spending the past couple of days jamming with Nunavut musicians Joshua Haulli, Charlie Panipak, Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory and the Inuksuk Drum Dancers.

Wednesday night they put on a performance for an Iqaluit audience as part of the AWG2016 cultural program. Prior to the last rehearsals Wednesday afternoon, they were in the broadcasting studios at CBC North to talk about their experiences.

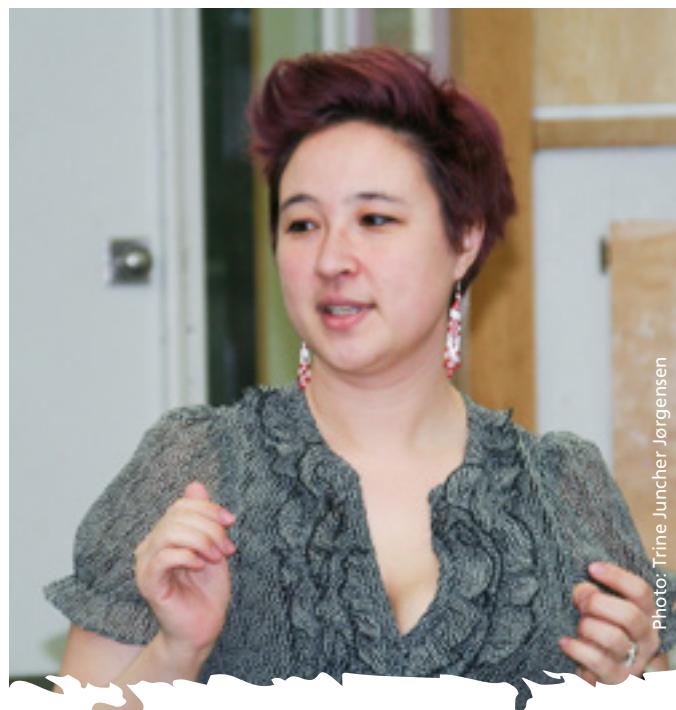
"I think it is very exiting to be here. It's interesting to experience new cultures and people. The culture in Iqaluit is very different from the culture in Greenland,

but there are some similarities especially in the language," said Jens Nielsen, a professional drummer in Greenland.

He surprised the radio reporter by playing drums on everything in the studio during the interview.

Nielsen was accompanied in Iqaluit by singers Jaakooq Joelsen and Jaaku Sørensen, who also performed two of their songs during the CBC session. Local singer Joshua Haulli also got in on the performance.

"It's been really fun and exiting to be here and play with the other musicians. But it's also been difficult to find the right way to blend the different types of music and instruments. But I think we managed all right," Sørensen said.



Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory is organizing the cultural program in Iqaluit

Drummer Jens Nielsen took the reporter by surprise by playing on a lamp and some other stuff he found in the studio





Local Iqaluit musician Joshua Haulli is part of the AWG cultural exchange program



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Greenlandic musicians Jaakooq Joelsen (left) and Jaaku Sørensen played two of their own songs in CBC North studio



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen



Photo: Paarnaq Hansen

The athletes eat in Qassi field house

A good meal was had by all

Nutritious food is essential during a competition. It doesn't hurt if it tastes good too

By Paarnaq Hansen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

If you're hungry for it, you can probably find it being served at the Qassi dining facility this week. So far, the menu has included things like asparagus soup, meatballs, chili con carne, various salads, and muffins.

"The food is awesome. Delicious. You are always full when you leave," said Zach Zimmerman, 14, a Team Yukon table-tennis player.

New dishes are on the menu each day. And even though there are no Greenlandic items being served, the dining participants appeared satisfied with their choices.

"They don't get to eat Greenlandic food. Likely because it would be too expensive if we fed them reindeer and muskox every day," said Flemming Johansen, a cook.

Johansen is one of 50 volunteers on the job each day to make sure participants are well fed.

So far, said one Canadian trainer, their service has been a part of the Qassi ex-

perience.

"The service is great, and the food servers are nice, even though we ask silly questions like, 'what is this?' or 'what is it made of?', they always give us an answer with a smile on their face."

Zimmermann actually did get to taste Greenlandic food during his layover in Kangerlussuaq.

"They made us crab, shrimp and seal blubber. The seal blubber was okay," he recalls, but he admits the pastries are his favorite.

"I have a sweet tooth and the pastries have a lot of different components and they are all sweet."

A group of volleyball players are sitting at the other end of the cafeteria. One of them, Quinn Pelland, 16, Team Alberta North, is "more of a fruit person", but said she was enjoying the soups here.

"I really like all of them. It is just nice to have something warm after the walk in the cold," she said.



Quinn Pelland is mostly to soup.
And burritos and salads

Photo: Paarnaq Hansen



Zach Zimmerman likes blubber
but loves sweets

Photo: Paarnaq Hansen



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Photo: Thora H. Nielsen

"If they weren't there to help us, we wouldn't be able to do this"

No volunteers, no AWG

Some 1,700 volunteers will be working a combined total of 34,000 hours to make AWG2016 happen this week

By Malu Pedersen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

AWG2016 General Manager Maliina Abelsen is in no doubt about what volunteering means to a big event like the Arctic Winter Games.

"We are completely dependent on them," she says. "If they weren't there to help us, we wouldn't be able to do this. We should remember that no matter how hard I work, no matter how hard the staff works, it simply wouldn't be feasible."

An estimated 10% of Nuuk's 17,000 inhabitants are volunteering in some way this week. As part of their preparations, they were trained in things like first-aid, security and hospitality.

For Abelsen this training is key to ensuring AWG2016's legacy in Greenland.

"We hope that all the volunteers will volunteer in other events, and that we as a country improve our ability to organize big groups of people."

Abelsen reckons that 20% of the people who volunteered in AWG2002 in Nuuk are also volunteering this time around.

"They told others how fun it was, and I think people want to be part of a big event that involves young athletes and cultural performers from different countries. It brings people together," she says.

There is no standard profile of a volunteer. And because people from all walks of life are taking part, many Nuummiut are finding themselves beside others they wouldn't have met.

"You hang out with your friends but suddenly during the Arctic Winter Games you hang out with someone you never imagine you would hang out with. This enriches you as a person. We see that a lot at Arctic Winter Games. People make friendships, and it is so beautiful to see," Abelsen says.



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Ally Ott (left) and Tatumn Willis on their way to a lukewarm shower

Photo: AWG2016/Bo Ø. Kristensen

And you thought it was bad at your house

If it weren't for Jacob Lohse, Nuuk would have 2,000 stinking teens on its hands

By Gaaba Olsen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

It has taken Jacob Lohse two years to work out a plan for showering. (Not for himself.) As the co-chair of the accommodations committee, Lohse was given the task of figuring out how 2,000 young people were going to be able to shower during AWG2016.

Lohse's problem begins with the fact that the schools the participants are staying at don't have enough showers to accommodate everyone who is staying there. Coming up with a master shower schedule required that he go in depth with athletes' individual competition schedules.

"We've taken into account when the participants are supposed to compete and when they are supposed to eat every day so that we can avoid long lines,"

Lohse said.

Another thing Lohse needed to think about was cleaning the showers.

"We've been able to do it thanks to our staff. They're really effective at cleaning the shower rooms."

Team Alaska futsal players Tatumn Willis and Ally Ott, both 15, are on their way to the showers at Ukaliusaq School, where they are staying.

"The showers are okay. They aren't great, but at least the water is somewhat warm, even if it isn't always hot."

Lohse understands that the shower solution isn't optimal, and that there are problems with having enough hot water.

"A hot-water heater froze, but we've cleared up the problem. For now things seem to be running well again."

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Photo: Ron Davis Alvarez

Little role models of Greenland

The children from the Uummannaq Children's Home are as excited as the athletes because they are performing during AWG2016

By Winnie Filemonsen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Uummannaq has its location in the northern coast of Greenland. The population is not much but some famous children live within the community: the children from the children's home in Uummannaq.

During AWG2016 twenty kids from the home are performing.

Else Marie Nikolajsen, 17, is originally from the capitol city of Nuuk. She has been in Uummannaq Children's Home for three years. She and several other kids have travelled around the world to perform their music.

– I'm excited and feel ready to perform at the Arctic Winter Games, she says with determination.

Ulu News met Nikolajsen before her first performance.

– Of course I get nervous when I think

about the fact that we are going to perform for lots of people, she says and continues.

– But it will always be a part of my life.

The Uummannaq children have gathered money in order to come to Nuuk.

– They are role models within the music community of Uummannaq, says Ruth Montgomery-Andersen, cultural director

But even though it is their first Arctic Winter Games performance, it is not their first games performance in the Arctic.

– They have performed in the Arctic Beringian Games in Chukotka, says Ann Andreassen, head of the children's home.

The children will perform several times in Nuuk Center and Ilimirarfik during AWG2016.





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"Drum-dancing is my future"

For the drum-dancers of Uummannaq Children's home, the drum is more than just a way to attract an audience

By Marie Kuitse Kristensen
ulunews@awg2016.gl

The drumbeats slam into the walls of Nuuk Center. The dancers on the stage move in time to the beat.

The audience is into it. They shout their approval. The traditional drum dancers from Uummannaq Children's Home have the audience rapt. For a moment, their drumbeats drown out the gaudy sale signs and the scent of frying hot dogs.

"Having the attention of the audience makes us want to dance even more," Alexandra Pipaluk Hammeken, one of the dancers, said after the performance.

Hammeken is the daughter of the woman who runs Uummannaq Children's Home, and has been practicing the art since she was a child. She's now 22, but through her work at the home she is

still involved in drum-dancing.

"We have teachers to teach us the rhythms, but we've also come up with some of our own. Having our own sound is something special," Hammeken said.

For a drummer, she explained, drumming is a matter of personal expression.

"I own my own drum and it is a very personal thing. Playing someone else's drum just feels wrong," she said.

The drummers from Uummannaq have performed throughout Greenland and in a number of countries. Hammeken said she intends to keep practicing, to keep improving and most importantly to keep playing.

"Drum-dancing is my future."





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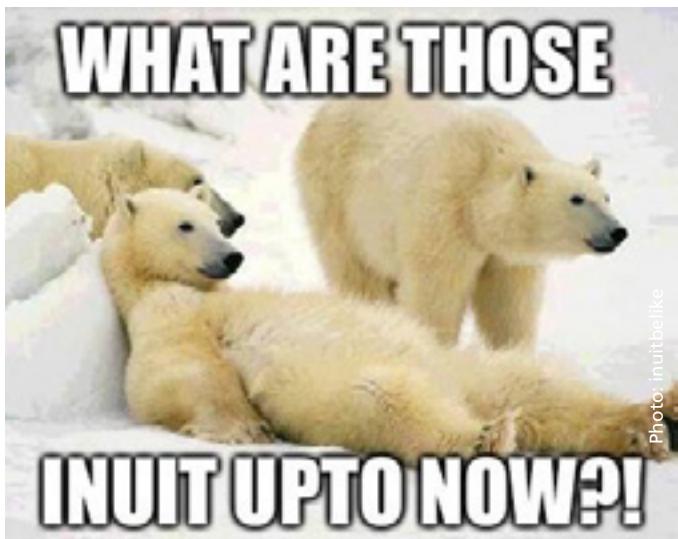
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