Teens compete in Explorer Olympics at OSU

By Nancy E. Ford
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The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat...

Both are evident in the expressions of teenagers from across the nation who have participated in competitive events at OSU this week.

The events are part of the 1983 National Explorer Olympics. The Olympics are designed to provide athletic competition while promoting personal fitness and sportsmanship, said Larry Carter, assistant national news editor for the Boy Scouts of America.

Carter said the program is sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America for men and women ages 14 to 20. It gives these youths an opportunity to compete in their athletic specialties.

Explorers participated in events such as bowling, canoeing, cycling, swimming and track and field.

The sports clinics, held for '77 sports ranging from air pistols to weightlifting, provide the opportunity to discover new talent, said Chris Kahn, acting advisor for the five-person contingent from San Luis Obispo, Calif. and a former Explorer competitor.

Kevin Eitement, a 20-year-old architecture student at the California Polytechnic Institute in San Luis Obispo, won the gold medal in the Javelin competition Wednesday.

Eltelman likes the excitement of the Olympics. "Everyone gives it their all," he said.

Eltelman has competed in other explorer competitions, and said it is always fun to meet the people and to get reacquainted with explorers he'd met in previous years.

Eltelman was impressed with OSU because of its size and the age of many of the buildings.

An added bonus, he said, is the air-conditioned rooms in Nosker Hall, where he and several other groups are staying. That luxury was not available in Ft. Collins, he said.

Explorers are responsible for paying their own way to the Olympics, but have implemented several fundraisers to lessen the amount.

For instance, the Knights of Columbus sponsored a group from San Luis Obispo, but each of the five members still needed $504 to attend the Olympics.

Kahn said half of the money was raised through a pancake breakfast and a barbecue. The food was donated by a local restaurant.

The bi-annual Olympics were held in Ft. Collins, Colo. seven times previous to the Columbus event, but was scheduled at OSU this year due to its outstanding facilities and mid-America location, Carter said.

The Explorer Olympics will probably return to Ohio State in 1985, he added.

The 1983 National Explorer Olympics has the support of 52 organizations, including the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and the United States Olympic Committee.

Although the event officially ends today, several medal winners received their awards Thursday from Chief National Scout Executive J.L. Tarr and former OSU football coach Woody Hayes.