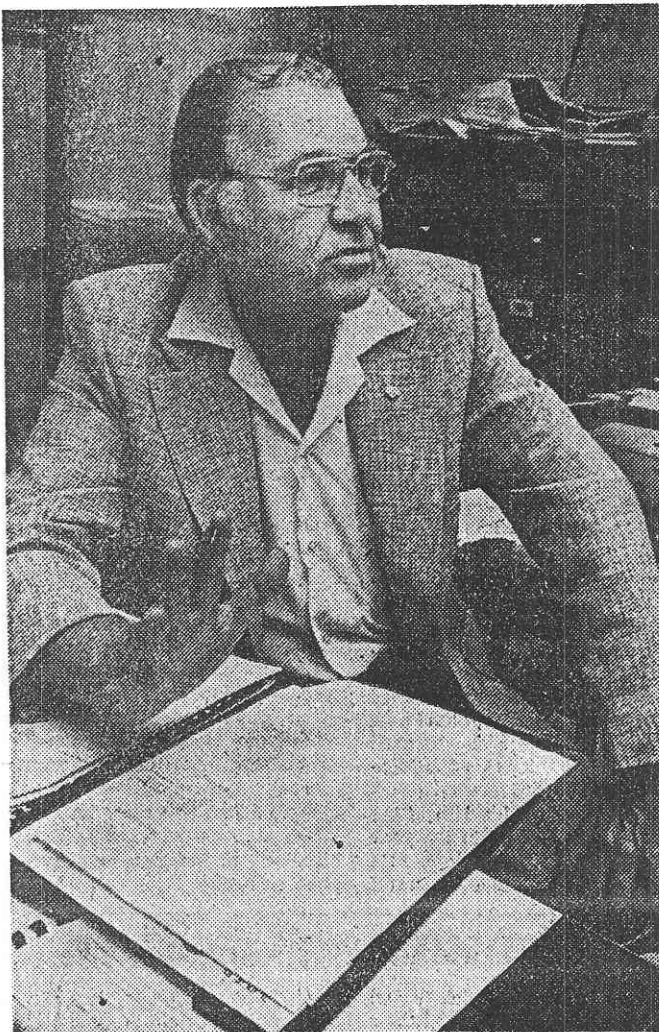


# Mols Mapping Olympic Plans



Courier-Express/Ron Schifferle

## Herb Mols explains concept of Empire State Games

... to unfold next year in Plattsburgh

By MICHELE COFFAS

Courier-Express Staff Reporter

Probably every kid has pictured it at one point or another.

The music of the National Anthem blending with the roar of the crowd as you bend to accept the gold-medal which is draped from a satin ribbon.

You are Number One.

Those kind of thoughts are motivating forces for past, present and future Olympians. But some kids just never find the right road.

Travel Director

Herb Mols, of Buffalo, is what you might call a "travel director" for the trip there.

Mols, executive director for the Niagara Association of the Amateur Athletic Union, and a group of people from across the state, are working to make the "road" just a little smoother.

It started three years ago with an innovative idea to hold an Olympics in New York State, but just for state residents. Next August, the Empire State Games become a reality — a revolutionary approach to amateur sports a way to provide both male and female athletes with top-flight, statewide competition, and a building block to develop public awareness of amateur athletes.

Mols firmly believes that, not only are amateur sports not getting their due recognition, but that in some cases, even competitors are hard to come by.

### Not Many Divers

"We're having the Niagara Assn. diving championships this Monday at Joe Davis State Park," said Mols during a recent interview at The Courier-Express.

"Would you believe," he asked as he leaned forward and slapped his hand on the desk for emphasis, "We'll only get about 30-35 divers?"

"That's all there are around here," he explained. The Niagara Association covers 24 counties of upstate Western New York.

Mols, recently appointed as regional director for 15 counties in the western portion of his AAU territory, will be setting up trials a month before the games to find area representatives for each sport.

Instead of different countries competing, the six regions of the state will go head-to-head at the finals, to be held at Plattsburgh State, site of the 1976 U.S. Olympic training camp. Plattsburgh offers some of the finest facilities for athletics in the country.

### State Foots Bill

The games will be sponsored by the New York State Commission on Sports and Winter Olympics, which means the state is footing the bill for travel, food and housing for the participants.

Although there are still many other expenditures involved in running a competition of this sort, such as officials, scorekeepers, timers, etc. Mols calls the state's support "unbelievable."

"I'm used to having to beg and borrow to run these things

and even then, the kids are on their own," he smiled. The AAU supports itself solely on application fees, club dues and sanction fees.

The state commission will be guided by the Empire State Games Advisory Council, which will include three representatives from both the Amateur Athletic Union and the state's college and universities; four from the Federation of Secondary Schools, and one each from the State Association for Health Physical Education and Recreation, the Commerce Department, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Education Department and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

### Olympic Style

Everything about the games will be run as close to Olympic style as possible.

Events will be those that are held at the Summer Olympic games including; archery, track and field, canoeing and kayaking, cycling, diving, equestrian, fencing, gymnastics, judo, rowing, shooting, swimming, yachting, basketball and volleyball. In addition, men's competition will also be held in boxing, weightlifting, wrestling, soccer, water polo and team handball.

There will be no age groups, only an open class, the same as the Olympic Games.

"What we're trying to do is bring these athletes just one step closer to the Olympics and perhaps give a chance to someone who never thought they'd have one," Mols said. "And to show people that there's a lot more happening in this area besides professional sports.

BUFFALO NEWS

DATE NOT KNOWN

1976?