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Edmonton hosts World University Games
this year, 1

PM meets with US President, 3

Displaced Cambodians receive aid, 3

Canada's objectives for Williamsburg
Economic Summit, 3

Canada and Kenya sign taxation
agreement, 3

New broadcasting policy set forth for
the North, 4

Canadian horse wins US Derby, 4

CSS Hudson undertakes seven-trip
research program, 5

Dairy pact with Venezuela, 5

Chefs rank first at international
competitions, 6

London mayor visits Canadian stand at
Pakex '83, 6

Fashion trend-setter lauded, 6

News of the arts — films, theatre, TV,
museum, arts briefs, 7

News briefs, 8

Edmonton hosts World University Games this year



Edmonton, capital of Alberta, is the site of World University Games.

For the first time, North Americans will have the opportunity to see on home territory the games which have again and again been the proving ground for Olympic athletes. The World University Games, or XII Universiade, will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, July 1-11, 1983.

Well-known in Europe, they are next in size to the Summer Olympics and twice that of the Commonwealth Games which Edmonton hosted in 1978. Eighty-five countries are expected to take part, sending a total of 4 500 athletes and officials.

Universiade '83 will be particularly interesting for a number of reasons. As it takes place only six weeks before the Pan American Games in Caracas and just 13 months before the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, the world's top athletes will be in prime form.

The United States, the USSR and China are all expected to send full teams. It will also be the first time the Chinese will compete in a multi-sport world event.

Two women's events — the marathon and cycling — appear for the first time in a world meet. More than 55 countries will enter teams in the largest international

basketball and volleyball tournaments in the history of the sports.

The games consist of nine required sports — athletics (known in North America as track and field), swimming, diving, gymnastics, tennis, fencing, basketball, volleyball and water polo — and one optional one, chosen by the host country; cycling was chosen for '83. The Velodrome was already in place from the Commonwealth Games and the route for the road race — down into the North Saskatchewan River Valley and up again — will be a natural setting for spectators and an enjoyable one for the cyclists.

The results system, developed by Digital Systems of Canada Limited, will be the most sophisticated yet at an international meet. A central computer will be connected to timing and scoring equipment and to 90 city terminals to make results and other information immediately available.

Torch travels by laser

The torch to light the flame for the games will travel by laser from Sofia, Bulgaria, site of the 1983 winter games, to St. John's, Newfoundland. Although it will



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