

Alaska Bound:

Young Musher to Meet His Hero

by Tim Kjos

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John Henry Rogers will get to meet one of his heroes later this month. The White Earth 12-year old will travel to North Pole, Alaska, with Richwood sled dog musher and instructor Rick Larson March 14.

They will be staying with one of the sport's living legends, George Attla, plus attend the Open North American World Championships in Fairbanks. They won't just be watching. Rogers and Larson will assist friends who are competing in the three-day event, March 17-19.

This will be Rogers' first trip to Alaska and promises to be a valuable learning experience.

Rogers, in his third year of sled dog racing, is in the hunt for either the season-ending gold or silver medal in the 3 Dog Junior category. While the winter weather has been disappointing for dogs and mushers this season, Rogers is still happy with his efforts.

Larson, who oversees the Native American Sled Dog Team, took Rogers to four

events: three in Minnesota and one in Wisconsin.

He placed first at Cannon Falls and was fifth at Detroit Lakes. Several races were canceled this season due to lack of snow. Rogers would like to move upward in to 4 Dog Pro, but Larson prefers he remain in the 3 Dog Jun-

ior one more year. If Rogers advances next year, he can't return to the lower category. "It's kind of a toss-up if he wants to go pro

next year, but then he has to stick with pro," noted Larson.

As in past seasons, Larson assisted Rogers in selecting the three dogs for each, although the student is given some leeway in the process. The Alaskan trip is actually a substitution for original plans by Rogers and Larson to go to Baqueira Beret, Spain, in the Pyrenees Mountains for the December, 1999, IFSS (International Federation of Sleddog Sports) Junior World Championships, but that was canceled due to a lack of funds. Circle of Life principal Mitch Vogt learned of the circumstances, and he assisted efforts to raise money for the Alaskan visit. Additional funds were contributed by Shooting Star Casino at Mahanomen and mushing enthusiast Liz Deye, Cambridge, MN.

Rogers first met Attla last year when he [Attla] stayed several days with Larson. Attla was invited to Minnesota to oversee a sled dog race in the Minneapolis area. Although Attla no longer races, he still has an 18-dog kennel at his North Pole residence. A relative of Attla's is now racing the dogs.

Teacher and student also plan to assist Minnesota professional musher Neal Johnson and Curtis Erhard. Johnson is coming into the season's finale as an odds-on favorite to win the sprint championships. Johnson has one, first place win and two, second place finishes to his credit in the unlimited category. Unlimited mushers start the race with sometimes as many as 20 dogs.

John Henry is going to learn a lot from George again and from helping Neal get up to the line with 20 dogs. He'll get to see hands-on where he can end up if he wants to continue racing," noted Larson. *



Photo by Joy Green

John Henry Rogers pushes for first place in the 2000 Cannon Valley Classic Sled Dog Races 3-Dog Junior Class, Cannon Falls, MN.

NSSDC KENNEL DIRECTORY

(Information available in listings: puppies, stud service, breed of dogs available, racing equipment, dog food and training trails at your place or nearby. Also, availability of lodging for mushers close to training trails.)

AH-REGAH KENNELS: Rick and Annette Johnson, 2327 Cty. Road 142, Mahtowa, MN 55762, #218-389-6818. Racing Huskies and Houndskies, puppies, stud service, and adult racing dogs. Training trails both at home and in general area. Custom made musher hats available. Cable ganglines and snow/ice hooks.

NORTHOME ON WINDHILL KENNELS: Al and Ann Stead, 3033 Roberg Road, Duluth, MN 55804, #218-525-2139. AKC racing Siberian Huskies, trained sled dogs, puppies, stud service.

TEAM SHOEBOX RACING SIBERIANS: Paul and Shelly Whitney, RR#14, Concession 6, Thunder Bay, ONT P7B5E5, #807-767-9538. Strength and conditioning coaches, kennel operators.

WENDIGO KENNELS RACING SLED DOGS: Ted and Shirley Wallace, 2352 Maere Rd., Wrenshall, MN 55797, #218-384-3463. Occasional puppies, team dogs, stud service, Annamaet Dog Food, polar plus neckwarmers.

WILLOWRUN RACING HUSKIES: Tim Wallace, 8982 Norway Ridge Road, Zim, MN 55799, #218-744-4206. AKC registered Siberian Huskies, occasional puppies, leaders, team dogs, stud service, Annamaet Dog Food.

To be included in the North Star Sled Dog Club kennel directory, please send \$5/year along with kennel name, address, phone number, and relevant information to: TUGLINE Editor Sally Bair, 16406 - 257th Ave., Big Lake, MN 55309.

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worked the trail and got volunteers for the event.

Results (no times since this was a mass start)

10 Dog

1. Eddy Streeper, Osage, MN
2. Claes Aschberg, Morden, MAN
3. Amy Streeper, Osage, MN
4. Pete Redmond, Buyck, MN
5. Steven Peterson, Detroit Lakes, M

6-Dog

1. Clyde Dockter, Brainerd, MN
2. Frank Klassen, Steinbach, MAN
3. Jessica Aschberg, Morden, MAN
4. Jim Jackson, West Fargo, ND
5. Clayton Endall, Faulkner, MAN
6. Tony Donkersloot, Steinbach, MAN
7. Bob Bott, Norwich, ND
8. Dean Coan, Tower, MN
9. Mike Congdon, Big Lake, MN
10. Gail Brangstrom, Babbitt, MN
11. Pete Redmond, Buyck, MN

4-Dog

1. Lynn Congdon, Big Lake, MN
2. Zach Dockter, Brainerd, MN
3. Clyde Dockter, Brainerd, MN
4. Lucas Brangstrom, Babbitt, MN
5. Jeff Wells, Fergus, Falls, MN
6. Kari Haud, West Fargo, ND
7. Jessica Aschberg, Morden, MAN
8. Dean Coan, Tower, MN