

# Attla, Attla, Attla, Attla, Attla,



George Attla, "The Huslia Hustler," thunders to his 10th Fur Rendezvous dog sled race win on 4th Avenue in Anchorage this week.

## 'Huslia Hustler' takes 10th Rondy win

From The Associated Press and Staff reports.

Veteran dog musher George Attla beat an injured foot and a skeptical newspaper warning on Sunday to breeze to his 10th title in the Fur Rendezvous dog race, sprinting to the finish line nearly four minutes ahead of his nearest competitor in three days of racing.

The Huslia Hustler finished the third heat with an elapsed

time of 225-minutes, 51-seconds, to win \$5,900 in day money and for his share of the \$22,000 purse. But his time Sunday, 76:56, was bested by Rampart's Roxy Woods, who tangled with Clyde Mayo of Rampart in an intense battle for second-place right down to the finish.

Mayo, who finished Sunday's heat in 78-minutes, 12-seconds, had to scramble to

nudge the hard-driving Woods into third-place overall. Mayo finished in second with an elapsed time of 229-minutes, 45-seconds to take home \$4,300.

For the third time in her Fur Rendezvous racing career, Woods finished third overall, with an elapsed time of 230 minutes, 19-seconds, but her 76-minute, 15-second time Sunday was enough to edge

Attla and Mayo out of the \$600 first-place day money and her three-day winnings totalled \$3,500.

Attla battled an injured foot for two days of the race. He at first thought that he suffered a broken foot when his foot hit a broken tree on the first day of competition, but he later found the foot was only bruised. Some limbering

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# Foot injury doesn't deter Attla in Rondy race victory

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exercises put it in shape and he was back on track Saturday and Sunday.

Attla said a foot injury he sustained in Friday's heat was no problem in Sunday's run.

"It didn't cause me any trouble," he said. "It was a clean, smooth run."

The newspaper headline was the Anchorage Times which on page one in large headline type warned the veteran musher, "Attla had best be careful—No lead is safe in Rondy race." The story that followed was about Attla's long-standing mushing duel between himself and Dr. Ronald Lombard of Massachusetts. Lombard dropped out of this year's race.

Attla pressed his lead home in the second day of racing



A winner's smile

when he and Mayo were racing neck-and-neck for almost the full 20 miles of the race.

But Attla charged ahead of

Mayo when the two came to a bottleneck in the track and Attla was able to charge past a group of five other racers and Mayo's team got tangled with the others.

Mayo was quoted as saying he knew he lost the race when his two lead dogs got snarled with dogs belonging to Diana Dronenberg. Attla and Mayo were headed back to the finish line and Dronenberg and four other racers were outbound when Attla passed easily and Mayo got tangled.

Attla's win makes the Huslia Hustler the top winner in the annual Fur Rendezvous race with 10 wins under his belt. Dr. Ronald Lombard is the next nearest with eight Rondy wins.

Attla credited his win to his team leaders, a youngster named Lingo and a veteran

named Runes.

He won his Sunday race heat with only 13 dogs, down from the 15-dog team used in the first two days of the race.

Woods left the starting chute two minutes behind Mayo, but caught him and was leading right up to the finish line. Mayo put on a last-minute burst to cross only a dog-team-length ahead of Woods.

Carl Huntington of Galena received day and prize money totaling \$2,100 for his fourth-overall finishing time of 232:57.

Bill Sturdevant of Knik finished the race with an elapsed time of 235:29 to take fifth. He won \$1,700, edging out Charlie Champaine of Salcha who posted a 235:37 to win \$1,100. Lester Erhard of Tanaana nailed down seventh and

\$1,000 with 238:43, and Al Chase of Fairbanks finished in eighth with 240:46 to net \$900.

Darrel Eversman of Fairbanks finished ninth with 240:56 to win \$800. He was followed by Dave Olson of Knik with 253:25, whose tenth-place finish won him \$700.

Tim Redington of Knik was eleventh with 253:54. He was trailed by Walter Williams of Akiak, 263:19; Gust Chocknock of New Stuyahok, 270:14; Robert Ivan of Akiak, 270:18; Earl Norris of Willow 272:34; Arnold Van Horn of Eagle River, 315:17 and Fran Reich of Bethel, 348:07.

Roger Reitano of Tok, Diane Dronenburg of Barrow, J.P. Norris of Fairbanks, and Dr. Roland Lombard of Wayland, Mass., scratched.