

Attla wins Exxon Open

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE — Premier sprint racer George Attla came from behind to capture top honors Sunday in the \$4,000 Exxon Open sled dog race.

Attla, a 10-time world sprint champion, finished the two days of racing on a 12-mile

course in 78 minutes, 59 seconds to win the Open Class. Bruce Garey finished second in 79 minutes, 59 seconds.

Charlie Champaine finished third in 80 minutes, 10 seconds.

Gareth Wright, the first-day leader who started two minutes

in front of Attla on Sunday, finished the race fourth with a time of 80:38. He was followed in by Joe Redington, in 80:40.

"I had a super ride," Attla said after the race Sunday.

Wright said his 14-dog team seemed to be slowed by the snow which fell on the track all day. There was about an inch of wet powder in places.

"That snow just seemed to be dragging all the way," said the North Pole musher.

Attla said he ran about half of the 16 dogs he plans to run in the 25-mile, three-day Fur Rendezvous race in Anchorage. His best lead dogs sat out the Exxon race, he said.