

Bedford to Race for Tundra Times

Dogmushing race drivers usually come lean, muscular and not too big but Tundra Times race entry next Sunday in the three-dog mushing race for the news media will not come under that category.

Inverted walrus-mustachiode Prof. Jimmy Bedford, comptroller for the Tundra Times, will be the driver—all 250 pounds of him “soppin’ wet.”

“I weigh 250 pounds soppin’ wet,” said Bedford today. “With

my parka on and stuff, I’ll probably weigh around 270 pounds.”

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Prof. Bedford . . .

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Ethel Stoneman, who works along with, and races with, the North American Dog Mushing Association in Fairbanks, called Tundra Times this week and asked if the paper would have an entry in the race for the news media.

When told that Jimmy Bedford drove the Tundra Times entry last year, she chuckled. Bedford was contacted and asked whether he would again drive the paper's entry.

"Great—great, I'll drive!" he answered gleefully.

"You mean those dogs will pull him?" queried Bonnie Ericson, Tundra Times all around Girl Friday. "Poor things."

Her editor told her that Bedford will probably run with the dogs part of the time but Bonnie's answering glance wasn't very convincing.

Prof. Bedford was asked how he did last year when he raced:

"I think I came in next to the last," he said. "I think there was someone behind me."

He also had alibis:

"One thing—those dogs took turns going to the bathroom and they took their time. They were nice dogs though and they looked at me and wagged their tails."

Prof. Bedford is in charge of the journalism department at the Univeristy of Alaska.

The race will start at 1:00 p.m. if the weather stays above 15 below zero.