

# Professor Jimmy Bedford Races for Honor of TT

Tundra Times won fourth place in the hard-fought 1975 news media dog mushing race Sunday at the Jeff Studdert mushing grounds on Farmers Loop Road.

"It was the dogs that did the trick," said Jimmy Bedford, Tundra Times board member and sometimes reporter-photographer for the paper.

"This was my fourth time at mushing for the Tundra Times and each time they gave me three small dogs to pull my eighth of a ton in weight. This year I drew three of Harvey Drake's magnificent dogs and they really knew how to run," he said.

Bedford, a world traveler and University of Alaska professor of journalism, said "I almost always come in last place, for one reason or another. One time they gave me some fairly good-sized dogs but they must have had diabetes or something.

"They kept stopping along the way to go to the bathroom. It would be OK if they all went at (continued on page 9)



**INTREPID TT MUSER —** UA Prof. Jimmy Bedford is straining hard as he came in fourth in his 3-dog team race for the Tundra Times Sunday during the mass media contest. We hasten to sympathize with the dogs as they were pulling a 6-foot-1, 250 pound musher.

—Photo by BOB WALKER

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once, but they kept taking turns and we must have had at least eight rest stops on the three-mile trail. Two other dog teams passed us on the way."

The Drake team was better trained, Bedford said. "When we started, we didn't stop for anything — until the sled tipped over."

Bedford explained that his six-foot, three inch height and 250-pound weight must have made the sled top heavy.

"We were just going great and those dogs were running like 'a house afire' when we had to make a curve and the sled turned over about a mile down the trail," he said.

"If I had let go, the dogs would have been over the finish line in

record time. But I held on and the dogs quickly got the message: Pulling the sled on its side — and dragging me through the snow — was just a bit of a drag and they stopped just long enough for me to hop back on the runners and say 'Mush!'"

"Off we went again," Bedford said, "and I don't think we lost more than 20 seconds in the fall."

In spite of the fine dogs, Tundra Times came in three minutes after the winner, Tom Scheimo of KJNP, who made the trip in a little more than 14 minutes. Second place was Mike Wellings of KFAR, with third place going to Roberta Redloff of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

"Although we didn't win first

place, we ran a gallant race — and we finished, Bedford said.

This was not true of two teams. One musher, Jackie Singleton, of KMPS, let go of her sled and the dogs brought it in without her. Geoff Kennedy of KUAC, a gentlemen of the old school, stopped his sled and gave the lady in distress a ride to the finish line.

Pete Van Nort of KIAK forgot to tell his dogs to "GEE" at the turnaround and they took a left turn to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on College Road. They must have smelled the fish and thought it was time for mush.