

Smiling Raymond Paneak to Race In North American Championship

Genial, smiling Eskimo from Anaktuvuk Pass, Raymond Paneak, is racing today in the North American Championship Sled Dog Races.

"I don't think I'm going to win but I'm going to have lots of fun," Raymond told the Tundra Times this week.

In last year's race, Raymond made a rather poor showing in the three-day 70-mile race but he did win the hearts of the sled dog race enthusiasts with his good-natured, smiling, never-say-die attitude.

Raymond may do much better this year however. He has been training his dogs a lot better than he did last year. His big worry has been the warm weather he has to race in here in Fairbanks in mid March.

"It's cold up there in Anaktuvuk Pass and my dogs do much better in it than they do here. Last year, it was too hot for my dogs," he said.

"I have also trained my dogs to run with neck line to the main center tow rope like they use here," he continued. "They weren't used to it last year but now they are."

Raymond Paneak flew in

to Fairbanks last Saturday along with his dog handler, Joshua Rulland.

Raymond is being sponsored by the D and B Paint Store in Fairbanks.