



Kenora, CA Updated: 9:00 PM
Mostly Cloudy
Humidity: 62%
Visibility: 10 miles/16 km
Wind: SW at 8 mph / 13 km/h
82°F / 28°C
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SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2007

Jamaica Dogsled Team

Laurence heard a story on CBC radio about the [Jamaica Dogsled Team](#) running the [Yukon Quest](#). He told me that if I didn't blog about it he would never read my blog again. I know he's not serious because he has to read my blog, it's part of our prenuptial agreement.*

I'm doing a little research whilst I write and this [Toronto Sun](#) article, sent to me by Laura M, has answered some of the questions I had.

I have heard about the team before and even checked out their webpage in the past. What they are doing is not that exceptional. In the UK, Australia and countless other places in the non-snowy world there are many teams doing the cart style of dogsledding. I'd love to have a cart like theirs instead of my tricycle. Of course the movie [Cool Running](#) and the [Jamaican Bob Sledding team](#) has the world enjoying the antics of Jamaicans who are in love with winter climates.

I may be splitting hairs here, but the TEAM isn't coming, only the musher is. Wisely he is using three time Quest winner, [Hans Gatt's](#) dogs. The dogs that he runs in Jamaica are thin coated dogs used to running in the heat. In the north mushers run northern breeds. These dogs have of thousands of years of breeding that makes them suitable for the climate they live in.

So what do I think about this development? I think that teams come to run the Quest from all over the world, seasoned respected mushers. I think that Devon is a dog musher and he spent last winter doing some mushing in Minnesota and some time in the Yukon but this doesn't make him well prepared yet for the climate of the Yukon and Alaska. I think there are a lot of dedicated Quest mushers who deserve a pat on the back and the world spotlight on them far more than a Yukon Quest rookie from Jamaica. BUT I think the nature of media, public interest and the future of the race in a practical world where things cost money may mean that the novelty guy will get far more attention globally then the men and women who face the challenge year after year to make this race what it has been since its beginning.

Devon will have to qualify, that's not easy to do, if he qualifies then he can run the race like any other entrant. He will have proven that he has the necessary skill to keep himself and his dogs safe and alive

(hopefully) in winter conditions.

This is the 25th anniversary upcoming, its an important anniversary.

In odd years the race begins in Whitehorse, even years the race starts in Fairbanks, Alaska. This being a Fairbanks start means that he will have to pass over Eagle Summit in the early days of the race. I doubt you remember, but in 2006 six mushers and their teams were stranded on the summit and had to be airlifted to safety. Its a formidable enemy to face by even experienced mushers.

For those of us who follow the Quest, we'll be watching him with interest. I wish him well, he will be a fun addition to the lineup AND it will probably mean that the media coverage will be better and it will make it easier to follow the race from a distance.

Oh one other thing.... The Jamaican has got Laurence interested in The Quest and he said that if gold goes up to \$800 per ounce then we can go up there and watch the Jamaican do the race. So hey, come on gold and bring on the Jamaican, mon!

*Just kidding, we don't have a prenuptial.

at [2:29 PM](#)

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4 Replies:

[Fiddling Granny](#) said...

If the Jamaicans win, they can host it next -- it'll be called Rasta Quest.

[5:22 PM](#)

[Hilary](#) said...

well you tell laurance i am part of this so if the gold goes up he has to buy my ticket too .. i wont take no for an answer.

[11:59 AM](#)

[Cherylinn](#) said...

I think he should just purchase us all a ticket. Why not?

[3:33 PM](#)

Anonymous said...

If Laurence has gold on the mind - it's the Yukon! Take a pan and head off prospecting between races. Best take an ice pick too....

Lin

12:10 AM

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