

LOCALNEWS

Anderson wraps up season with a win

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Ray musher Ryan Anderson wrapped up his 2014 racing season last weekend with a first-place finish.

Anderson crossed the finish line of the 220-mile Hudson Bay Quest Sled Dog Race around 8 p.m. Friday in Churchill, Manitoba.

“It was cold and windy,” Anderson said of the race that saw temperatures with a 50-degrees-below-zero wind chill. “But it was a good race.”

This was Anderson’s fifth race and only first-place win of the season. Earlier this year, Anderson told Journal staff he was going to enjoy the season more and not worry about being too competitive. Still, he admits, going into

the Hudson Bay Quest, he was thirsty for a win.

“I started at No. 1 and had a good lead off and on throughout the race,” the musher said. “I knew I had a good shot.”

Anderson said his four-legged teammates recovered “really well” from the Can Am Crown sled dog race at the beginning of the month. Anderson took third place in the event.

“When I got to the (Hudson Bay) race, they were just insane,” he said of the dogs’ excitement. “I hadn’t seen them like that since December and knew it was going to be a good race.”

Anderson finished the event that runs along the coast of the Hudson Bay from Gillam to Churchill, Manitoba, with seven out of the

10 dogs he started with. He hauled one dog in the bag of his sled for more than four hours at the end of the race.

The race, Anderson said, is unique because it’s a self-sufficient race, meaning everything needed for the two-day event needs to be in the musher’s sled from start to finish.

“I had to haul a tent plus enough food for myself and the dogs for two days – 200 miles,” he said. “And at 50 below.”

Still, the Hudson Bay Quest is one of Anderson’s favorites.

“It’s a really neat part of the world to see,” he said of the race route. “There are no trees and it’s a tundra. It’s really something.”

Trail conditions were also unlike those on which the

experienced musher has ever competed. He said some patches were slick with ice, while others were slower to run on because of soft snow, but then packed with hard snow down the trail.

“Last year, I scratched and I was really upset about it,” he said of the 2013 Hudson Bay Quest. “This year, it was great to finish.”

With the 2014 season behind him, Anderson said he plans to unpack his winter gear and work with some of the younger pups in his kennel.

“I’ve got five puppies that are nine months old and I’m going to try to run them everyday,” he said. “I’m also breeding two litters and going to get caught up on everything and get back to work.”



FILE PHOTO
Ray musher Ryan Anderson and his team compete in a race in Northome earlier this season.

Outflows of Rainy and Namakan lakes adjusted for spring

Action intended to accommodate snow melt, rains

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Significant snowpack and prolonged cold across the Rainy River basin have led to an increased risk for high inflows this spring.

In an effort to address that risk, the Water Levels Committee of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board March 7 directed the operation of dams at Rainy Lake and Namakan Lake to target by the first week of April the lower end of the regulated lake level range, known as the rule curves.

Under normal conditions,

the dam owners are required to target the middle portion of the rule curves, according to a news release from the board.

The dams are owned and operated by H2O Power LP on the Canadian side, and owned and operated by Boise Paper, a division of Packaging Corporation of America, on the United States side. The rule curves for the lakes have been established by the International Joint Commission.

Targeting the lower end of the rule curves is intended to provide for additional storage room in both lakes for the anticipated strong freshet flows. Freshet is a term that refers to increased water flows from heavy rain or melted snow.

The March 7 directive also requires the dam owners to make any increases

More information

Up-to-date information can be found online at http://www.ijc.org/en_/RLWWB.

For more information, call (800) 661-5922 ext. 3.

The Water Levels Committee is regularly monitoring conditions in the watershed and will post updates as conditions warrant, said the release.

The board recommends property owners and users of the system continue to keep themselves updated on basin conditions for at least the next few weeks.

Up-to-date information can be found online at http://www.ijc.org/en_/RLWWB.

For more information, call 800-661-5922, ext. 3.

RULE CURVES

The first rule curves were introduced by the IJC in 1949 after detailed study and public hearings, according to the Boise website. Serious floods in 1950 and 1954 led to a reevaluation and modifi-

cation of the rule curves in 1957. The rule curves were modified again in 1970 due to high and low water events on Rainy and Namakan lakes from 1957 to 1968.

The latest revisions to the rule curves came in 2000 after a self-appointed group, known as the international steering committee, advocated changes to the rule curves on both lakes.

The IJC establishes minimum and maximum discharge requirements in order to avoid “emergency conditions” as much as possible, said the website. Emergency conditions are defined to exist when the levels of Rainy and Namakan lakes are higher than 1108.1 feet above sea level and 1118.6 feet respectively, and inflows exceed the discharge

capacity of the dams. Emergency conditions also occur when Rainy Lake is below 1,104.6 feet and Namakan Lake is below 1,108.6 feet and minimum discharges are in effect.

The maximum discharges through the dams on both lakes can at times be exceeded by the inflows into the two lakes.

A natural flow constriction is located at the outlet of Rainy Lake into Rainy River, known as the Ranier Rapids. A greater volume of water can be discharged through the International Falls/Fort Frances dam than can come through this natural constriction. This can cause the level of the Rainy River to drop in elevation between the outlet of Rainy Lake and the dam.



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PRESCHOOL SCHEDULES & RATES
Group 1: M, T, W, Th 8:30am-3:10pm \$225/mo.
Group 2: M, T, W, Th 8:30am- 11:30am \$120/mo.

For more information, please stop in at the Open House or call Preschool teacher, Jo Ann Flansburg or Kindergarten teacher, Joanna Brunkhorst at 283-3430 any time during the school day.



Children of all faiths are welcome at St. Thomas School.

Notice of Nondiscrimination policy as to students: St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.