

# READY FOR DOG DERBY.

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*"Skillibootch!"---They're Off.*

# READY FOR DOG DERBY.

[EXCLUSIVE DISPATCH]

WEST YELLOWSTONE (Mont.) Feb. 1.—With the American Dog Derby at Ashton, Idaho, but three weeks away, West Yellowstone, entrance to Yellowstone National Park, is the center of preparations for a battle of the white trails that is expected to be the most bitterly fought in the history of sledge-dog racing.

Gaston jumped into fame last winter when he mushed in second to Kent, urging a depleted team on to a spectacular finish. His backers declare that with a full team he would have passed up Kent, and predict a victory for him this time.

"Smoky" Gaston, famous young driver and runner-up in the 1921 Derby has announced himself as almost ready to annex the honors

Ever since his heart-breaking

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Ready for Dash Over Long, White Trail.

Already dog teams are gathering at Ashton, Idaho, for the American Speed Derby to be run Washington's Birthday. Over a course twenty-five miles long and through heavy snow, the sledges, animals and drivers will battle for the championship. Tud Kent, winner of the title last season, is here shown with his speedy team racing through the loose snow. Husky, the famous Malemute of Charles Causey's team, is shown below. Photos by Eyre Powell.

# DOG TEAMS ARE IN FINE FETTLER.

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defeat Gaston has been preparing for the 1922 Derby. His dog team will be practically the same as the one he used last year. He has been training his animals daily, and is believed to have developed the fastest set of dogs in the country.

Kent has already arrived in Ashton from his Targhee Forest home, and is confident of retaining his title. He has as many backers as his biggest rival, Gaston, and the contest promises to be a hard-fought affair.

From the standpoint of the supporters of the respective teams, there will be but two in the dog Derby, although there are many others entered. This year the clash between Tud Kent and Smoky Gaston will be the climax of competition between these two fast mushers, which will assume the proportions of a grudge race.

But enough competition is promised to keep Gaston and Kent very busy in addition to their own two-sided argument, and the thousands who journey to the scene of the canine contest will be treated to a real thrill.