

Iditarod Trail Committee
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2026

Jesse Terry, first Rookie to Nome, wins 2026 Iditarod Rookie of the Year

Nome, Alaska – Iditarod rookie Jesse Terry (bib #29), of Sioux Lookout, Ontario, Canada, won Rookie of the Year when he and his team crossed under the Burlled Arch in 14th place on March 19, 2026, at 3:36 a.m.

He became the rookie with the best time in this 54th running of The Last Great Race®, finishing in 10 days, 23 hours, 36 minutes and 3 seconds with 12 dogs in harness.

Jesse Terry was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and now calls Sioux Lookout, Ontario home. There, he and his wife are raising their two children while caring for and training a team of 30 sled dogs. Terry's passion for mushing began in childhood after his parents brought home their first sled dogs, sparking what would become a lifelong pursuit.

One of his biggest influences has been Iditarod veteran Hans Gatt, whom Terry now works alongside building dog sleds—an experience that has helped shape both his craftsmanship and his approach to the sport. Through years of hands-on learning and dedication, Terry has developed a strong foundation in mushing, combining tradition, skill, and a deep commitment to his dogs and family life.

The Rookie of the Year Award, presented by the Peldiak Family, comes with a beautiful trophy that will be presented at the Finisher's Banquet, as well as an additional cash prize of \$2,000.

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