



COOL RUNNINGS — WITH CHUTZPA

Winnipegger is proud to be on
first Israeli bobsled team

By Paul Friesen

Photography by Greg Fulmes

Remember those lovable Jamaican bobsledders who bumbled their way through the Olympics a few years back? Hollywood even made a movie about them.

Well, Winnipegger David Greaves is one of the players in a similar plot.

Call this one, Cool Runnings - With Chutzpa.

Greaves, 36, is part of the first Israeli bobsled team. Compared to their Jamaican counterparts, though, Team Israel takes its sledding very seriously, and plans to compete - all the way to the 2006 Olympic Games.

"If Israel thinks this is just a novelty act, they won't send us," Greaves says. "We're not going to be laughing stocks."

Greaves and his two Jewish teammates have already enlisted the help of the Israeli government, which has created a bobsled federation. They've also done all the legal work necessary to gain their citizenship, work which included a two-week trip to Israel in the spring.

And they've raised some \$50,000 US toward their first season of competition, which gets underway in November.

Credit Greaves' teammates, a former American fighter pilot and a retired pro football player, both from San Francisco, with that last one.

Aaron Zeff, the pilot, is basically a friend of a friend, and the guy who first hatched this idea. He recruited his buddy, former San Francisco 49ers tight

"I have no desire to pilot that thing. I'm happy to be sitting back with my head between my legs and having no view of what's coming up in front of me."