

end John Frank, and the two wound up training in Calgary.

When Zeff went down with an injury, Team Israel needed a third man.

"A Jewish guy in Calgary, essentially, is what they were looking for," Greaves says. "I happened to be in Calgary, happened to be Jewish ... and they gave me a call."

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The next thing he knew, he was in a sled, hurtling down the ice at 100 kilometres an hour.

"It's a terrifying experience doing it the first couple of times," Greaves recalls. "You're sliding out of control, you don't know when this thing's going to stop."

Even when he didn't crash, the G-force was almost too much for him.

"It's like five guys sitting on your back," he says. "You can't breathe, your eyes are popping out of your head."

"To be honest with you, 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."

A sprinter in high school, Greaves' job with the sled is to power it to a quick start, sit tight through the wild ride, then hit the brakes at the end. He recently



Being the Israeli bobsled team is no lark for (L to R) pilot Zeff and brakemen Greaves and Frank.

began a rigorous weight program designed to build up his strength.

Team Israel needs to bulk up financially, too.

Greaves and Co. will compete in six races on the America's Cup, the sport's entry-level circuit, including three events in Europe. That could cost as much as \$85,000 US. Eventually, they'll need to compete on the elite World Cup circuit in order to nail down the Top-30 world ranking needed to qualify for the Olympics.

Earlier this summer, Zeff and Frank staged a fund raiser in San Francisco, bringing in around \$50,000.

Now it's Greaves' turn.

With the help of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, he's holding a benefit concert on Sept. 25 at the Delta Hotel, featuring his brother's group, The Watchmen. He'll also solicit donations at a swanky, one-hour, pre-concert presentation, featuring a five-minute DVD presentation telling the story of Team Israel.

The video contains footage of the athletes' trip to their homeland, where Greaves found himself signing autographs for adoring Israeli youngsters.

Giving an Israeli kid something to cheer for, Greaves says, is what this is all about.

"In three years, he's going to see us in the Olympics," Greaves says. "And he's going to remember seeing me talking to him in broken Hebrew and letting him push our training sled."

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For more information on the bobsled team, check out its Web site at www.israelibobsled.com. 🍁

