



The climbing clan: Dan, Adam and Alan Mallory on Everest. Right: Laura Mallory, also on the summit.



Hawaii Ironman veteran. "I never quit," he says simply. Fortunately, conditions improved, the mechanical difficulties ended, and team Mallory made the summit at 8:15 a.m. on May 26.

A family affair

And yes, they climbed it because it was there

DAN MALLORY'S scariest moment on Mt. Everest this spring wasn't when a giant boulder whizzed past his head while he was ascending the Lhotse Face, or even when he was climbing the famous summit ridge. No, Mallory's scariest moment by far came after his successful summit bid with his two sons, when he thought that his daughter Laura might be dead.

At 8:30 p.m. on May 25, four members of the Mallory family, from the small Ontario village of Utopia, near Barrie, set out for the summit of Everest from Camp 4 on the South Col. Laura, the youngest of the family, was uncertain about the climb ahead. "I hadn't been feeling well for four days," Laura says. But she was determined not to watch her father's dream of a family Everest summit completely evaporate. (Already, a ruptured Achilles tendon had stopped mother Barbara at Base Camp and sent her back to Canada.) So Laura left with the group that night for the final 12-hour

push through the darkness. Then she stumbled. And took five minutes to get back up again. "I knew then there was no way I was going to make it to the top that day." After radioing her father, Laura returned to the South Col alone and spent the night on oxygen.

Meanwhile, the Mallory men—Dan, 57, Adam, 25, and Alan, 23—were having problems of their own. About halfway to the summit, at the feature known as the Balcony, conditions deteriorated to the point that Dan had to ask a Sherpa which rope to grab because his goggles were so fogged in blowing snow. Then their ascender seized, rendering it useless until Dan and his sons took off their mitts and, bare-handed, repeatedly scraped the ice and snow out of the mechanism. (Dan suffered some frostbite as a result.) The decision to continue or go down was left to each individual family member, and it was at this point that Dan seriously considered turning back. But that would have been tough for the adventure racer and

Laura woke up that morning on the South Col feeling strong. Another woman at Camp 4 realized that she didn't have the stamina to go any higher, and told Laura that she could climb with her Sherpa. After cobbling together enough oxygen tanks, Laura began making her way toward the summit. Dan, meanwhile, had moved down the mountain, and was waiting tensely for news about Laura. Finally, at 3:30 p.m. on May 27, some seven hours after expected, Laura called from Camp 4 to say she was okay—the batteries in her Sherpa's radio had crapped out. But she had made the summit, and with it, some history. The 20-year-old is the youngest Canadian woman to reach the top of the world. And it's the first time that four members of one family have been to the summit.

Everest was also chapter six in Dan Mallory's Seven Summits quest. Since Christmas day 2001, he and at least one member of his immediate family have climbed Mt. Aconcagua, Mt. McKinley, Mt. Kosciuszko, Mt. Elbrus and Mt. Kilimanjaro. Only Antarctica's Vinson Massif remains, and he hopes to get there in 2010. Dan can't say for sure if he is related to the Mallory, George, who died on Everest in 1924. "But I think I have some of his blood."

—Kate Barker

IN OTHER EVEREST NEWS...

JEFF ARSENAULT, a public-school teaching assistant in the Ontario community of Winchester, near Ottawa, wanted to send 5,000 sunflower seeds to the top of Everest to inspire children to take up gardening. His quirky dream was realized



Justin Merle

on May 23 when American climber Justin Merle carried the packets to the summit. In June, the seeds were returned to Arsenault's school by armoured Brinks guard, and were then shipped to other schools throughout Canada

and the United States, where kids will observe if the high-altitude exposure has had any effect on the seeds.

ON MAY 25, Sebastian Sas-seville became the first Canadian with juvenile or Type 1 diabetes to reach the peak. This is the fourth summit the Vancouver resident has bagged while raising money and awareness about the disease. His previous climbs include Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt.

Lenin and Cho Oyu.

WATCH OUT FOR a television mini-series about the 1982 Canadian Everest Expedition, called, appropriately enough, *Everest '82*, which will be airing on CBC later this summer. But keep in mind, this is a mini-series, not a documentary, with actors, not climbers. The cast includes Jason Priestly and William Shatner. Yes, William Shatner.

—Kate Barker