



Zuma's  
Paw Prints

## TEAMS DON'T TAKE THE WEEKEND OFF

March 11, 2006

Hi Girls and Boys,

Last night I was telling you about the layovers and how they might affect the positioning of a team. As you remember, Paul Gebhardt had left Ruby yesterday morning after completing his 8 hour Yukon River layover, however, he still had to take his 24-hour layover. Since he was the last musher to leave the starting line, he had no time differential to make up so he would only have to layover for the 24 hours when he decided the time was right to stop. While he was making his run to Galena, several of the mushers behind him got into Ruby and began their 8-hour Yukon layover. However, they had taken their 24-hour layover at a prior checkpoint. This meant that they were really ahead of him in race time. We were going to watch to see if this was going to hurt or help his team's standing in the race. So lets look at today's team movements and see where everyone is.

Gebhardt, got into Galena yesterday afternoon at 3:34 p.m. and declared his intention to take his 24-hour layover. He completed his layover at 3:34 p.m. today in 17<sup>th</sup> position. While he was taking his layover, sixteen teams had passed him. Jeff King gained the lead when he left Galena at 3:28 a.m. this morning. Now it is almost midnight and here is how the teams are standing. Jeff King is still in the lead having arrived at Kaltag at 6:10 tonight followed by Doug Swingley at 6:21 and DeeDee Jonrowe arrived at Kaltag at 8:28 tonight.

By the time Gebhardt got to Nulato after his layover at Galena, he had moved up to fifth place and was in "catch up" mode. He checked out of Nulato at 8:42 p.m. and headed for Kaltag about an hour behind Lance Mackey. Nine other mushers are on the trail to Kaltag while five other mushers are in Nulato at this time. Eleven teams are between Galena and Nulato with nine teams in the Galena checkpoint. Seven teams are out of Ruby and nine teams are in the Ruby checkpoint with seven headed toward Ruby from the Cripple checkpoint where three teams are resting. Four teams are between Ophir and Cripple and the last three teams are between Takotna and Ophir after completing their long layover in Takotna.

Two more mushers have scratched today bringing the total scratches to eleven. John Barron scratched at Galena because his dogs were sick. Dave Tresino scratched at Cripple checkpoint due to a lack of leaders on his team. He must to have had to drop leaders at some of the earlier checkpoints until he finally ran out of dogs that could run lead. What a shame. He had been doing pretty well from what I saw. I know they all feel badly about not being able to finish, but there is always another year.

These mushers have scratched from the race since the start.

<b>Bib #</b>	<b>Musher</b>	<b>Where Scratched</b>	<b>Date Scratched</b>	<b>Time Scratched</b>	<b># of Dogs</b>
15	Gary Paulsen	Skwentna	03/06/06	01:08:00	15
2	Lori Townsend	Rainy Pass	03/06/06	20:47:00	16
70	Sandy McKee	Rainy Pass	03/07/06	14:41:00	15
60	Sue Morgan	Rainy Pass	03/07/06	14:49:00	14
43	Richard Hum	McGrath	03/09/06	03:25:00	12
47	Rick Larson	McGrath	03/09/06	20:47:00	12
74	Jim Warren	Takotna	03/10/06	10:14:00	12
39	Terry Adkins	Takotna	03/10/06	10:15:00	10
32	Matt Hayashida	Cripple	03/10/06	09:56:00	10
9	John Barron	Galena	03/11/06	11:59:00	10
27	Dave Tresino	Cripple	03/11/06	16:30:00	14

There are still 72 teams out on the trail. The first team should start arriving in Nome on Tuesday night or Wednesday and the race probably will end around Sunday or Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> when the last team crosses under the arch in Nome.

Today it was pretty windy for the teams in Ruby as more teams checked out and started their trip up the mighty Yukon River. Notice the ground storm below at right. It is blowing pretty hard. I could barely see the dogs as they were leaving.



← Norwegian couple leave Ruby checkpoint at just before 8:30 this morning. (March 11)

Norwegian couple, Tore Albrightsen and Tove Sorensen, run along the Yukon River through blowing snow and 30 mph winds shortly after leaving the Ruby checkpoint. →



Four-time Iditarod champion Susan Butcher who is currently fighting leukemia, signs autographs for Ruby children at the Ruby checkpoint where she and her family enjoy watching the race.



Four-time Iditarod champion Susan Butcher checks in DeeDee Jonrowe at the Ruby checkpoint. Susan and her family flew into Ruby on Friday to watch the race and surprised some mushers.



Susan Butcher's daughters rub her head at the Ruby checkpoint. Susan, fighting Leukemia, is out watching the race.

A really big surprise for the fans, volunteers and the mushers showed up yesterday. Susan Butcher who is under medical treatment for Leukemia showed up at the Ruby checkpoint with her family. Susan has just finished the second of three chemo treatments before having a bone marrow transplant to save her life. Leukemia is a cancer of the blood.

When it is caught early enough, it can be treated successfully. Susan has fans all over the world that are praying for her full recovery. With all those folks behind her, she should be able to win this battle just as she won the Iditarod four times. It was great to see her out there enjoying some time with her kids, mushing friends and some of her fans.

Until next time,



Lots of Tail Wags,  
Zuma

Don't forget to visit the rest of the Iditarod website at [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com) where you will be able to find the latest updates plus terrific stories about the race. Most of these pictures are from the Ruby checkpoint today.