



Zuma's
Paw Prints

OVER FIFTY TEAMS IN TOWN!

March 17, 2006

Hi again, boys and girls,

Well, here I am at the end of another busy day greeting teams in Nome. In between mushers arriving under the burlled arch, the finish line of the Iditarod, I arranged for 150 large pizzas for the sled dog party Sunday evening. All the teams are getting excited about the bash while the mushers have their banquet. I told them all about pizza and how good it is and they all wanted to try some. It was a real job figuring out how many of each kind to order, but I think I have a good variety for the gang.

Tonight we have 55 teams in Nome. Noah Burmeister was the latest arrival on Front Street in Nome at 10:09 p.m. Less than an hour before Noah came in, we had another race within a race with three mushers arriving. The first of the three across the line was Dan Seavey at 9:18:40 with Judy Carrier at 9:18:53 (yes, that is 13 seconds apart) and right behind them was Cindy Gallea at 9:20. It is always exciting to see more than one team on Front Street in Nome. Here we had three teams at one time. The next teams due in are Rachael Scdoris, the legally blind musher and her visual assistant, Tim Osmar. They left Safety checkpoint at 10:48 and 10:46 p.m. The run time into Nome is between two and three and a half hours so they should be arriving in Nome in about an hour. I hope I can stay awake for it, but I am pretty tired after running down to the finish line every time a team came in and then running around making arrangements for Sunday's party. I'll try, boys and girls, to be there to report on that arrival for you, I really will.

No other teams are due into Nome tonight. The next three teams are in White Mountain on their layover now. Those mushers are Clint Warnke and rookie mushers, Warren Palfrey and Katie Davis. Karen Ramstead and Lachlan Clarke departed Elim on their way to White Mountain early this afternoon and should be arriving in White Mountain in the next couple of hours. Two teams are out of Koyuk, Chad Schouweiler and Ron Cortte, while three rookies are in the Koyuk checkpoint tonight, Trent Herbst, Randy Cummins and Eric Rogers. These mushers are presently resting at the checkpoint. Kim Kittredge departed Shaktoolik at 12:35 this afternoon with ten dogs. He should be arriving in Koyuk shortly.

Glenn Lockwood, another rookie, left Shaktoolik at 10:00 tonight followed six minutes later by Steve Madsen. The last two mushers, Katrina Pawlaczyk and Ben Valks, both rookies, departed from Unalakleet this evening.

I have some personal pictures to share with you tonight, but first let me say thank you to Ms. Barnes' 7th grade class at Alhambra Middle School in California, Virginia Singletary's 2nd graders in Fairfield, Connecticut and Mrs. Johnson's 3rd grade class at Los Altos Grace Brethren School in Long Beach, California for the wonderful pizza yesterday and today. I really enjoyed them.

In addition to the to all the great pizza, I have received a couple of gifts from students that I want to say thank you for. The students in Mrs. Ann Diamond's, Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania sent me a collar that matches their uniform sweater. They have light blue stripes on the sleeves of the sweater and they put light blue strips on the new collar they sent. Chestnut Hill Academy is an all boys' school so I will say, "thanks boys, great job. I'll wear this collar proudly."



The second gift is this musher's bib. It has my name on it and it says that I am the "# 1 Iditarod Reporter." Isn't that neat, boys and girls? It was autographed by all the children in Mrs. Trapp's 2nd grade class at New Covenant Christian School in Marlborough, Massachusetts. I got a couple of friends to help me and got the pictures taken just before I left Anchorage and they only arrived here in Nome this evening.



I have had a great time covering the race for you this year and keeping you informed and I want you to know that I will stay with you until the last musher is in Nome and the Red Lantern flame is extinguished.

Good night now boys and girls. There will be more teams to greet tomorrow and Sunday and then the big K-9 party! I can hardly wait.

More next time,



Lots of Tail Wags,
Zuma

Don't forget to visit the rest of the Iditarod website at 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.