



Zuma's
Paw Prints

SECOND MUSHER CAMPED AT IDITAROD HEADQUARTERS

June 22, 2006

Hello Everyone,

The second musher to camp out at Iditarod Headquarters this week is GB Jones. He has his little camp trailer and a gas grill and his car and he is all set to spend the week. He and Lance visited with us for over an hour and we were just thrilled with listening to them talk about mushing, their dogs, the trail and racing. After the 2006 Iditarod, GB Jones announced his retirement from running the Iditarod. He found homes for all of his older dogs and proceeded to live the life of a retiree or so we thought. (You'll notice that the window curtains in GB's trailer are unused food shipment bags from Rohn and Kaltag.)



One of my first questions to GB was, "what happened?" GB's reply shocked me, "I can see now, so I want to try it when I can really see what is going on." He went on to explain that he had eye surgery after he withdrew from the 2006 Iditarod. He was almost blind in one eye and the other eye had blurred vision. He wants to see what he missed in previous races.



He also has young dogs that he has raised from pups and plans to do more training miles before the race this time. He is confident that he can improve over his previous Iditarod races.

GB ran his first Iditarod in 2002 and finished in 52nd place in 14 days, 1 hour, 11 minutes and 11 seconds. In 2004, he finished the race in 76th place in 15 days, 2 hours, 38 minutes and 8 seconds. Boy, one day sure makes a big difference doesn't it, boys and girls? If GB had been racing against Emmitt in 1975, he would have won the race his rookie year!!! Amazing!

In 1975, Emmitt Peters won the race and set the record for the fastest race time at 14 days, 14 hours, 43 minutes and 15 seconds. Emmitt held that record until the 1980 Iditarod when Joe

May finished in 14 days, 7 hours, 11 minutes, 51 seconds. It is amazing how much mushers have learned about dog care, nutrition and breeding so that they produce dogs that have more endurance and are faster than in the early years of the race. The record today, held by Martin Buser, was set in 2002 at 8 days, 22 hours, 46 minutes, 2 seconds.



We understand that other mushers will join Lance and GB later in the week but so far, they are the only mushers camping at Iditarod.

GB & Lance pose for the camera as well wishers stop by to say hello.

Until next time,



Lots of Tail Wags,
Zuma