

Heather's

HARDCORE HUSKIES

Summer 2007



Heather with one of the newest members of the Hardcore team!

New Pups Join the Hardcore Team!

Iditarod veteran Fast Eddy may be deaf but now he is a daddy too. The litter of 6 puppies from Fast Eddy and Minnie were born in early May. The pups are progressing nicely, driving mom and Heather crazy. Heather says are gaining weight and becoming more rambunctious by the day.

The black and white litter of three boys and three girls also has a Hollywood connection. The girls are named Monroe, Hepburn and Farmer and the boys are Bogart, Marlin and Brando.

Training Underway for Iditarod 36!

The Hardcore Team has already begun their training for the 2008 race. This early training means trips to the lake for swimming with new life vests that were recently purchased for the dogs.

"The dogs are also allowed to "free run," says Heather. "This is where I take 4-7 dogs for a two to three mile walk and allow them to run along and enjoy themselves a bit and just be dogs."

Heather also says she has recently purchased a 4-wheeler which she uses as a sled for the dogs to pull during the summer months.

Finally Heather says she is filling out the paperwork to enter the 2008 race. The Iditarod begins accepting applications on June 30th. The entry fee for the 2008 race has increased dramatically from \$1800 to \$3000!

SPONSOR INFORMATION

It costs nearly \$50,000 to train and run in the Iditarod. With your help I can train a happy, healthy team for Iditarod 36! Every little bit helps! My team and I would greatly benefit from your support. We would gladly represent you with a patch or logo on our coats, sled or truck. Be a part of the Iditarod 36!

Sponsorship Fees:

- \$1000.00 - Sponsor the team - Have your logo on truck/sled/parka
- \$500.00 - Sponsor Heather - Patch or logo on her parka
- \$200.00 - Sponsor a dog - Patch or logo on dog coat during races
- \$100.00 - Receive a Hardcore Huskies Honorary Musher Certificate

All contributions over \$20.00 receive a personally Please send your contribution to the address below or contact me for more information:

- Email: HardcoreHuskies@aol.com
- Address: Heather Siirtola
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Talkeetna, Alaska, 99676
- Website: www.hardcorehuskies.com



Bismarck Students Meet Their Homework



How often do kids get to "meet" their homework?

That's what recently happened to Jordan and Jessica Bushaw and the rest of the students at Prairie Rose Elementary in Bismarck.

Throughout the Iditarod, the fifth-graders were following the hardcore Team and musher Heather Siirtola.

It was part of a class project - each student had to pick a musher.

They say they were worried about the Bismarck native sometimes... but knew she'd pull through.

"When she kept staying in one checkpoint, I thought maybe she had dropped out," said Jordan Bushaw. But she didn't. I think she was taking her 24-hour layover then... I was wondering if she was okay. But I knew if any serious thing had happened, it would be all over the news."

"I knew she was gonna make it," said Jessica Bushaw. "I read about her, she is a really good musher, and she was really nice. So I knew her spirit was gonna make her make it. So, I knew she'd make it to the end. If she finished last, I didn't care, at least she'd make it."

Heather spoke to students throughout the Bismarck/Mandan area as well as Bismarck State College. Her dog Kitty came along.

Heather says it was great to return to her roots and thank the folks who made her dream a reality.

"Without the help from family and friends in North Dakota I could not have made it!"

SHE'S FIRST IN NORTH DAKOTA

An editorial appeared in the Bismarck Tribune on April 2nd. It talked about the "last great race" and what it takes to run it and finish.

The editorial quoted Lew Freedman, of the Chicago Tribune, described the Iditarod this way:

"The 1,100-mile Alaskan dog sled race from Anchorage to Nome, across frozen terrain, over harsh wilderness, in minus-30-degree weather seasoned with 50 mph winds and the occasional blizzard, is regarded by many as the toughest endurance event on the planet."

Heather admits that one time she considered dropping out.

The editorial concludes by saying: *She fell into water and had to stop to dry out; she fell asleep and fell from her sled; and she had to drop off dogs along the way.*

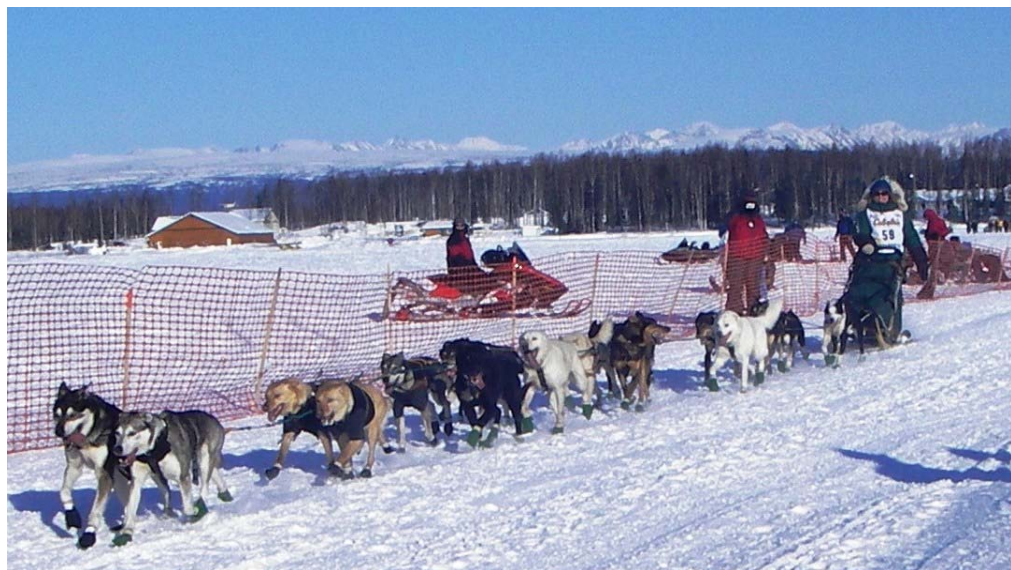
It was fiercely cold and it was dangerous.

Finishing the race is a remarkable achievement for anyone. It's more remarkable when done by a rookie.

Friends and family, actually the entire state, followed her trek with great pride. Later this month, she'll return to Bismarck and share her story with school students.

Siirtola plans to race again next year. Her goal this year was just to complete the race.

She completed the race and finished first in the hearts of North Dakotans."



Heather leaving the Willow checkpoint during Iditarod 35.