

Lacey Hart, February Interview

3A: Are there difficulties on the trail? We know they may move the Iditarod start. Will they move the Jr. Iditarod start too?

Lacey: The Jr. Iditarod start and finish has been moved to Martin Buser's kennel in Big Lake. Martin was gracious enough to offer us the use of his trails and facilities to start and finish the race.

3A: Is the weather in Alaska going to change the whole race? Will it be totally different then it usually is?

Lacey: Yesterday we took snowmachines (known as a snowmobile outside of Alaska) out on the trail. I rode with another race official, and the trail boss and several other people involved with the race went. We rode for 10 hours, looking at the trail and deciding where it was going to go. Unfortunately, we are not going to Eagle Song. The trail to that checkpoint is okay, but the trail from Eagle Song to Yentna is in need of a lot of attention and snow. Right now we will likely go up the river to Yentna, but that could still change.

3A: Has anyone dropped out of the race? Anyone new signed up?

Lacey: We have had no mushers withdraw. It is too late to sign up now, so our final count is 10 mushers. The farthest away is from Nome. There's six rookies and four veterans, six boys and four girls.

3A: Are there sponsors for the race? Do you know who they are?

Lacey: Our major sponsor for the race is Lynden. Without Lynden's support, this race wouldn't be possible! They've sponsored Jr. Iditarod for many years now, and we are extremely grateful for their continued support. [Lynden is a company that specializes in shipping freight]

3A: What are you most looking forward to as Race Marshall?

Lacey: I'm looking forward to the race! It's going to be an exciting race this year, and I'm honored that the Jr. Iditarod Board entrusted me with the important duty of Race Marshal. I'm thrilled to be a part of the future of mushing through these junior mushers and hope everyone has a great race!