



**Iditarod Trail Committee**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Veteran Iditarod musher Tim Pappas wins 2020 Matson Most Improved Musher Award**

**Wasilla, Alaska** - Iditarod veteran musher Tim Pappas of Big Lake, Alaska, won the Matson Most Improved Musher Award in only his second Iditarod race. Pappas completed the nearly 1,000-mile race in 11 days, 57 minutes and 36 seconds, finishing in 20<sup>th</sup> place. Pappas improved 31 places from his previous best finish of 51<sup>st</sup> in 2016, his rookie year.

“It’s exciting to see Tim earn this award in only his second Iditarod,” said Iditarod CEO Rob Urbach. “Finishing in the top 20 is no small feat and Tim showed that his canine athletes trusted that he would lead them across the wilds of Alaska. We look forward to seeing Tim grow in this race moving ahead.”

Pappas’ 20<sup>th</sup> place finish came with a team from four-time Iditarod champion Martin Buser’s Happy Trails Kennel. When not racing, Pappas runs tours at the kennel in the summer or can be found hunting, fishing or playing the banjo. He is also a former apprentice of musher Billy Snodgrass.

As most improved, Pappas wins \$2,000 in cash and a commemorative trophy. Jessie Holmes and Lev Shvarts tied for second place for most improved musher, both having improved 18 places since their last completed races. Additionally, Thomas Waerner and Brent Sass tied for third place, each improving 16 places since their previous race.

“We are proud to sponsor The Last Great Race and support mushers who are keeping Alaska’s time-honored-mushing tradition alive,” said Bal Dreyfus, Matson’s Senior Vice President, Alaska. “Congratulations to all of this year’s teams, and well done to Tim on the remarkable progress he’s made.”

Pappas’ prize will be presented to him at a later date. For more information, visit [Iditarod.com](http://Iditarod.com).

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#### **About the Iditarod**

The Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the rich tradition of the Alaska sled dog and the Iditarod Trail. The organization is charged with coordinating the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, an annual long-distance sled dog race stretching from Anchorage to Nome for a nearly 1,000-mile journey through Alaska over the roughest, most breathtaking terrain in the world. For more information, visit: [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com).

#### **About Matson**

Founded in 1882, Matson (NYSE: MATX) is a leading provider of ocean transportation and logistics services. Matson provides a vital lifeline to the domestic non-contiguous economies of Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam, and to other island economies in Micronesia. Matson also operates a premium, expedited

service from China to Southern California and provides services to Okinawa, Japan and various islands in the South Pacific. The Company's fleet of owned and chartered vessels includes containerships, combination container and roll-on/roll-off ships and custom-designed barges. Matson Logistics, established in 1987, extends the geographic reach of Matson's transportation network throughout the continental U.S. Its integrated, asset-light logistics services include rail intermodal, highway brokerage, warehousing, freight consolidation, Asia supply chain services, and forwarding to Alaska. Additional information about the Company is available at [www.matson.com](http://www.matson.com).

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