



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2023

Musher start order set for Iditarod 51

Iditarod will again offer shuttle service to restart in Willow

Anchorage, Alaska – A lively crowd filled up the Dena’ina Civic Convention Center for the annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Musher’s Banquet. The banquet is the largest fundraiser for the Iditarod Trail Committee, which is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

The 51st running of the Last Great Race on Earth includes 24 Alaskans, 4 international mushers, 9 rookies, 24 veterans and 2 former champions. The field of 33 mushers is made up of 25 men and 8 women. The race will again be run on the Southern Tote, where the halfway point will be the checkpoint Iditarod. Tonight, the mushers drew for their respective starting order and the official 2023 Iditarod race start order is:

Bib #	Musher Name	Sex	City	State	Country	Status
2	Jessie Holmes	M	Brushkana	AK	USA	Veteran
3	Bailey Vitello	M	Milan	NH	USA	Rookie
4	Mille Porsild	F			DENMARK	Veteran
5	Ryan Redington	M	Knik	AK	USA	Veteran
6	Kristy Berington	F	Knik	AK	USA	Veteran
7	Matt Hall	M	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Veteran
8	Anna Berington	F	Knik	AK	USA	Veteran
9	Nicolas Petit	M	Big Lake	AK	USA	Veteran
10	KattiJo Deeter	F	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Rookie
11	Dan Kaduce	M	Chatanika	AK	USA	Veteran
12	Hunter Keefe	M	Knik	AK	USA	Rookie
13	Jennifer LaBar	F	Healy	AK	USA	Rookie
14	Brent Sass	M	Eureka	AK	USA	Veteran

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15	Richie Diehl	M	Aniak	AK	USA	Veteran
16	Matthew Failor	M	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
17	Eric Kelly	M	Knik	AK	USA	Veteran
18	Eddie Burke, Jr.	M	Anchorage	AK	USA	Rookie
19	Bridgett Watkins	F	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Rookie
20	Jason Mackey	M	Knik	AK	USA	Veteran
21	Riley Dyche	M	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
22	Gerhardt Thiar	M	Cape Town		SOUTH AFRICA	Rookie
23	Kelly Maixner	M	Big Lake	AK	USA	Veteran
24	Ramey Smyth	M	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
25	Joanna Jagow	F	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Veteran
26	Jessie Royer	F	Seeley Lake	MT	USA	Veteran
27	Jed Stephensen	M	Sandpoint	ID	USA	Rookie
28	Wade Marrs	M	Solon Springs	WI	USA	Veteran
29	Gregg Vitello	M	Milan	NH	USA	Rookie
30	Christian Turner	M	Mackay		AUSTRALIA	Veteran
31	Aaron Peck	M	Grande Prairie	AB	CANADA	Veteran
32	Michael Williams, Jr.	M	Akiak	AK	USA	Veteran
33	Peter Kaiser	M	Bethel	AK	USA	Veteran
34	Deke Naaktgeboren	M	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran

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The ceremonial start will take place on Saturday, March 4, at 10 a.m., in downtown Anchorage, followed by the official restart in Willow on Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m. Sled dog teams will leave from the start line at each start in two minute intervals. For information on public shuttle bus service from Anchorage and Wasilla, [visit the Iditarod's Facebook page.](#)

There will be a \$20 cash-only charge per vehicle for parking in Willow. The general public will not be allowed to park in the Willow Community Center parking lot. Accessible parking will be located as close as possible to the Willow Community Center entrance. On race day, look for electronic sign boards located on the Parks Highway in Wasilla and at Houston High School advising current information on parking availability in Willow.

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