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by
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Dog

DETERMINATION

8
TRAITS
OF
IDITAROD



DETERMINATION

A strong will or desire to complete or accomplish a task.

To complete the Eight Traits of Iditarod, “D” stands for determination. When creating a definition for determination, many ideas come to mind - will power, persistence, grit, spunk, perseverance, doggedness, stubbornness and courage.

Way back at the beginning of the race, Joe Redington and other race visionaries showed determination in pursuing the dream of running a sled dog race from Anchorage to Nome while most folks said it couldn't be done. Mary Shields showed courage and spunk when she signed up to run the Iditarod and when she became the first woman to complete the race. Libby Riddles showed will power and grit in the storm run of 1985 when she became the first woman to win the Iditarod. Paul Gebhardt showed perseverance when he chased his team down in the Farewell Burn during the 2006 Iditarod.

Rachael Scdoris showed double determination in convincing the ITC to allow her to use a visual interpreter on the trail and then as a blind musher, earning her belt buckle by finishing the 2006 Iditarod. Teams coming into Unalakleet facing winds of 40 miles per hour gusting to 60 miles per hour showed amazing grit. Teams climbing Little McKinley during a ground blizzard showed persistence as they made their trek toward White Mountain. The trail breakers show determination as they labor to run their machines through deep snow. Checkpoint volunteers show doggedness as they sort and alphabetize more than 200 musher drop bags all together weighing more than 6 tons. The characters of Iditarod - dogs, mushers and volunteers, provide countless examples of people being determined to accomplish their goals.



When you feel like giving up or quitting, ask yourself what would a musher or dog team do during training or out on the trail. It might be just enough to help you find the determination needed to continue the pursuit of your goal. When the going gets tough, the tough keep going!