



MEDIA RELEASE

February 26, 2009; 0800 AKST (Fairbanks, Alaska) - The trail ended for four rookie mushers in the early morning hours of February 26th. Normand Casavant was the first to reach the finish line at 2:26 AM in tenth place overall. A warm welcome awaited him and he was quick to compliment his team.

Mark Sleightholme, a rookie from England who ran both his qualifiers this year, was the next to come in at 4:58 AM. Mark was running on a team from the 2009 Yukon Quest champion Sebastian Schnuelle. He completed the last leg in 5h 21m - 21m faster than Sebastian.

Hot on his heels was Colleen Robertia an Alaskan musher who finished just 13 minutes after Mark. Colleen made up 21 minutes on Mark and recorded the fastest run on this leg to date at 5 hours.

Jamaican musher Newton Marshall was greeted at the finish line by steel drums, fans, media and the film crew that has been following him for over a year. Also among those waiting for Marshall at the finish line was champion musher Hans Gatt, who has been training Marshall.

Meanwhile, Russ Bybee became the ninth musher to scratch from the 2009 Yukon Quest. Bybee scratched with a race judge at Mile 101 on Thursday morning.

For the most up-to-date results from the Yukon Quest, please visit <http://yukonquest.com/site/race-updates/>. For images of the race, please visit <http://yukonquest-media.4shared.com> and enter 'media' as the password to access images of the trail. You can also access mini-updates of the race through our Facebook page - just search for "Yukon Quest - Official".

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