

①

## Stella Hamilton of Allakaket

Not enough good dogs of own, mostly pups - borrowed dogs to race  
 Raced with eight dogs in Tanana; put Sled on wheel strut of plane,  
 dogs all over her 1 hr 15 min trip - Met by truck - Two trips  
 to get all dogs to Tanana

Pre-race Practice - one time 3 days before race.

River drifted over, get off trail, thought they were slow  
 Course all on river between two islands - down one side, up other  
 10 miles each day

Drawing - first to draw - got last number (11) 20° above, dogs  
 warm, used to below zero - trail mushy.

Dogs go slower, stop to eat a lot of snow

Double lead, two & two leads - Little Girl & Victor (borrowed)

Double lead keeps string out tighter Swing dogs can catch  
 up and slack line, run over tow line

Holding dogs till last - help to hold them, late getting down - trouble  
 getting dog to harness - 10 min before starting, but late, could have  
 been disqualified but not enough handlers, allowed to go

3 minutes apart, could see previous team - Gained on team ahead

Scared of passing - wheel dog chews up other dogs, so told girl  
 to let pass on right

Leaders neck lines 14" long, leaders may try to go on opposite sides

Victor pulled Little Girl over - team passed on left anyway -  
 other driver quick pulled over to right

Next team was standing still - said "Hurry Up!" Her dogs slowed down  
 everyone yelling - ~~the~~ other dogs jumped all over <sup>her</sup> tow line, no place to put anchor  
 - snow too mushy

(2)

Q Sled made of? <sup>1.</sup> Oak - <sup>(husb?)</sup> Sandy made it - narrow runners dig in snow like plow Other dogs snarled & growled at her Got tow line past - Swing dogs took off -- Grabbed sled as it went by - Then wheel dog screamed - tow line wrapped around paw She thought "why did I want to race, not enough experience."

Remember everything other racers tell you. No anchor - talk quiet to dogs to make them stay, don't get excited or dogs will take off

Loosen tow line from dog's paw - dogs took off, jumped aside and grabbed sled, hit brake again & again, <sup>dog</sup> pulled paw loose

Quit hurrying, kept up

Passed trail marshal told of trouble behind

Another trail marshal, told her she was one of tops so far

Now excited to push on fast, fell off runners with excitement

Pushed on - Came in second with slow time 48 min or so

Overnight - dogs rested - not her - Thought at night about caribou <sup>broth</sup> for dogs in morning - Got up at 7:30, petted dogs - unchained dog w/ sore paw - really lively, jumped around -

Not lame at all

Feed - Broth in morning - Caribou <sup>meat</sup> ~~fat~~ and friskies at night

Second Day - Second out - Check all tow lines & harnesses - wax sled & runners - Sandy not there to do it 1st day as before

1/2" holes in runners - fill with candle drippings, wax over

Wax - ski wax - try different kinds to pick the one to work

Just before race others told her that sled was no good, runners too narrow, borrow other one - She ignored them

(3)

Sandy arrived to help wax next day, help handle dogs  
How long sled? 8-10 feet

Got down in time - Team ahead had 10 dogs

Trail was even mushier  $22^{\circ}$  above, goggles to cut flat light, <sup>to</sup> see trail, snowing

Dogs excited, wanted to catch team ahead - 200 yds ahead at end of island, hit brake - Dogs loved curves, full speed, caught up but didn't want to pass until trail marshal (for help if needed) - she pulled over, good but slow pass - Had had to hold brake for two miles to avoid passing. She had to give  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles or 5 minutes to repass.

Couldn't get ahead of other team - Repass at next trail marshal, no trouble but then other lead dog turned around and came back towards her team (wanted to be behind instead of ahead) Straightened out

Almost passed again, dogs off to side; but she decided dogs were too tired to stay ahead - So close, used brake often.

Slushy place - Other team took off and left way behind  
Really pushing now to catch up - So nervous & excited couldn't even stand up. Came in first in spite of that last spurt of first team

Banquet for trophy - excited for speech

Unreal to do good without thinking you could

Will enter Women's North American in Fairbanks with ten dogs maybe

Scared now - Dog fights can't be broken up by women

4

Q Races in Allakaket? 2 races Last fall - 1st Christmas  
overconfident, lost by 10 seconds - Needed a couple kicks

Q Dogs here at home? 12 puppies, Six adults Hard to keep track  
Will be all male team except one female