



Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race®

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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – (March 10, 2005)

FIVE TIME IDITAROD CHAMPION, RICK SWENSON

SCRATCHES IN McGRATH

IDITAROD XXXIII MUSHER Rick Swenson, (Bib # 17) has officially scratched in McGrath Alaska at 11:00 this morning (Thursday, March 10 2005). The 54 year old Alaskan from Two Rivers said he scratched because "he was concerned about the well being of his dog team."

Swenson arrived at the Takotna Checkpoint at 6:53 this morning. He dropped one of his dogs at the checkpoint, began heading toward Ophir with 12 dogs, when he said he made the decision to turn around and head back to McGrath. Swenson officially scratched from the race in McGrath at 11 am.

Rick Swenson is the only five time winner of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. This is Swenson's 29th year on the trail. It is also the first time that the legendary musher has had to scratch.

Besides being the only musher to win five Iditarod Championships, Swenson has the distinction of being the only musher to win the "Last Great Race on Earth" over the last three decades, the 1970's 80's & 90's.

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