

Race Is On—Regardless

The annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome will start, as scheduled, on March 7th. The lack of snow in the Anchorage area has prompted talk that the race may be cancelled, but according to Race Manager Dick Mackey, "there are several reasons why the Iditarod can go on when sprint races must be cancelled. The Iditarod Race calls for a much heavier sled, built to withstand the rough trail conditions. The long distance dogs used in the race are generally a slower dog. The pace is a fast trot

rather than a gallop. These dogs are trained on and used to all types of trail conditions. Each driver carries sufficient booties for his or her dogs in order to protect their feet."

The race will begin, weather and trail permitting, at Mulcahy Park in Anchorage. If there is not sufficient snow, there will be a ceremonial start at the park and the teams will travel by motorcade to Eagle River. The Restart will take place at Settlers Bay in Wasilla. Plans are being made to haul in snow for the trail if it is necessary.
