

Uemura mushes to another record

By LAEL MORGAN

KOTZEBUE—Japanese musher Naomi Uemura arrived at destination Kotzebue at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, ending at two year solo run from Thule, Greenland.

The sportsman, who was the first man ever to climb the major peaks of five continents, took to mushing three years ago when he thought he might be "getting a little old" for mountain climbing.

Now, with completion of the Greenland-Kotzebue trip of more

(Continued on Page 6)

Uemura . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

than 12,000 kilometers, he collects the record for the longest solo dogsled run in history.

Uemura reached Barrow, Alaska, in mid April and was warned by local Eskimos that the ice might not hold for completion of his journey. Luckily, spring has been slow in coming and Kotzebue Sound was still frozen for his last lap.

Had the musher been slower by a few days, he probably would not have gotten through. Float planes have been removed from the sound and the ice is wet, sloppy and dangerous in spots.

At this writing the musher is in residence at the Nul-luk-vik Hotel. After catching his breath, he'll fly to Anchorage and from there back to Japan.

As to the fate of his trusty team, that has yet to be announced. Only one Greenland dog survived the trek but he picked up lively recruits to potential Iditarod competitors.