

Mushers begin signing up for 1983 Iditarod

The addition of five veteran mushers to the Iditarod Race field for 1983 has brought the early entries to 11 mushers who will head for Nome in March.

Sonny Lindner of Johnson River, Ak., the second place finisher in 1981, is the eleventh

musher to enter the race. Rick Mackey, who ran strongly in 1982 before an accident in Shaktoolik forced him to slow down to an eleventh place finish, also entered.

LeRoy Shank of Fairbanks, J.C. (Bud) Smyth of Fairbanks, and Russell Ivy of McGrath,

all Iditarod veterans, have also enrolled.

A spokesman for the Iditarod Committee in Wasilla noted that Susan Butcher, the highest placing woman in the history of the race who finished second in 1982, is expected to sign up this month.

The committee says sign-up is going just about as expected and that the field that leaves Settler's Bay for Nome on March 5th will number just about 50 mushers.

Previously signed up for the annual classic are Fritz Kirsch, a female musher from Wasilla;

Lavon Barve of Wasilla; Terry Adkins from Sand Coulee, Montana; Jim (Sourdough) Strong, Hope; Burt Bomhoff, Anchorage; and Ted English, the first musher entered, from Chugiak. Kirsch is the only rookie musher to enter the event thus far.