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DILIGENCE

by
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Dog

8
TRAITS
OF
IDITAROD



DILIGENCE

Having or showing care and conscientious behavior in one's work or duties.

The second trait of Iditarod is “D” for diligence. Throughout the race, mushers demonstrate thorough, persistent and hard-working effort in doing almost everything. Lew Friedman in his book, [Iditarod Classics](#), shares a story about Lavon Barve from Iditarod 1991 that demonstrates diligence.

Barve began the race as one of the favorites but as it turned out he was lucky to survive and finish the race. During the race, Barve's dogs lost the trail and went down over an embankment. After getting the dogs back up the steep hill, he set the snow hook and left them to walk a short distance ahead to locate the

trail. The wind was howling at 60 miles an hour and snow was swirling around. Visibility was extremely limited. When he returned he couldn't find his team. He walked for 18 hours without food or water in the wind and snow searching for his team.

Finally he realized it didn't do any good to keep looking. He began walking toward a shelter cabin and was completely void of energy when some snowmachiners found him. After eating a good meal and warming himself, he found his dogs and completed his journey to Nome finishing seventeenth.

Lavon's painstaking, persistent and hardworking effort allowed him



to not only finish but surprisingly finish in the money. Freedman's book, [Iditarod Classics](#) published by Epicenter Press, contains many great stories as told by the mushers themselves.