

## Two Rivers woman wins Sheep Mountain sled-dog race

By BETH BRAGG

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Jessica Hendricks of Two Rivers arrived at the Sheep Mountain Lodge at 12:30 this afternoon with a team of 11 huskies to capture the Sheep Mountain 150 sled-dog championship.

She beat Allen Moore, also of Two Rivers, by six minutes. Hans Gatt of Whitehorse arrived at the finish at 12:38 to claim third place and Jon Little of Kasilof was a minute behind in fourth place.

Hendricks set the pace for most of the 150-mile race, which started and ended at Sheep Mountain Lodge on Mile 113 of the Glenn Highway. The race began Saturday with a 50-mile run to Eureka Lodge followed by a five-hour layover, then a 50-mile loop in the backcountry around Eureka Lodge, then back to the lodge for another five-hour layover before the 50-mile trip back to Sheep Mountain Lodge.

Hendricks, the 2003 Iditarod Rookie of the Year and the 2005 Tustumena 200 champion, was the first musher to reach Eureka Lodge after each of the first two 50-mile legs.

She reached the lodge for the final layover at 3:19 a.m. today, 14 minutes ahead of Sebastian Schnuelle of Whitehorse, 16 minutes ahead of Moore and 20 minutes ahead of Little.

Gatt arrived at 3:42 a.m. and outraced Hendricks once he returned to the trail at 8:42 a.m. But Hendricks' lead -- and her dogs -- held up.

A field of 47 mushers started the race, held in frosty weather atop an abundance of hard-packed snow.

Hendricks earned \$1,750 for her victory.

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