

John Storkamp's 2008 Arrowhead 135 Race Report



2006: SUCCESS

2007: DNF

2008: MY WILL WOULD NOT BE BROKEN; FAILURE WOULD NOT BE AN OPTION.

For my third year at the Arrowhead 135 there was to be only one theme - Never Surrender. After being the first person ever to finish this event on foot in 2006, I dropped out of the 2007 race after 70 miles on the trail. For 2008 I came back angry and was ready for revenge. I went hard and fast and when it started to hurt and I started to get tired I got angrier and pushed even harder. I finished in first place in 40:32:00, 7 hours ahead of the next competitor, bettering my own course record from 2006. I am looking forward to improving my time and exploring new limits in 2009.

The Arrowhead 135 attracts some of the toughest runners, skiers and bikers I have ever met and I am proud to know all of them. It feels more like a fraternity than a race and I am glad to be part of it. Pierre, Cheryl and all the volunteers have done a fantastic job with this event. This race teaches you lessons like few other races do. You learn to stand on your own two feet because no one is out there to hold your hand when things get tough. My wife Cheri and my daughter Emma make all of this possible for me by providing me with unwavering love, support and stability and by helping me to find the time that it takes to train and compete.

This race is a metaphor for the rest of life's obstacles... no matter how many times you get knocked down you have two choices, stay down on the ground or keep getting up, never to surrender.