

APRIL 27TH CAMP 2 - BASECAMP

I DONT WANT TO GET TOO EXCITED ABOUT RETURNING TO BASE CAMP AS THE DREADED ICEFALL HAS TO BE PASSED THROUGH FIRST.

WE WOKE AT 5.30AM TO ABOUT 3 FEET OF SNOW AND THEN ABOUT 6.30ISH WE HEADED DOWN THE MOUNTIAN IN THE BITTER COLD. PALDE CAME WITH US AS HE HAS A BAD THROAT AND YOUR BODY CANT RECOVER FROM ANYTHING AT 21,500FT. KIKO BROKE TAIL AND HE WAS LIKE THE PIED PIPER WITH ALL OF US AND A BUNCH OF SHERPAS ALL FOLLOWING HIM AS NO ONE WANTED THE ARDUOUS JOB OF TRAILBREAKING.

IT WAS MUCH MORE TIME CONSUMING AS KIKO,ERNESTO AND MISAIL HAD TO BE ROPED TO CHECK FOR CREVASSES AS THE 3 FEET OF SNOW PREVENTED US FROM SEEING ANYTHING. WE GOT TO CAMP 1 AND SAID HI TO LOUIS FROM ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS, HE IS GREAT, ALWAYS SO UPBEAL. THEY HAVE THE BEST GUIDED SET UP ON THE MOUNTAIN ( OUR EXPEDITION IS PRIVATE SO YOU CANT COMPARE TO US!) ALL THE CLIENTS WERE SITTING ON CHAIRS IN THE SUN AT CAMP 1 DRINKING COFFEE AND LISTENING TO U2!! ANDRONICO AND I RELUCTANTLY DECLINED LOUIS'S KIND INVITATION FOR COFFEE FOR FEAR OF GETTING TOO COMFORTABLE AND WE HEADED DOWN INTO THE ICEFALL. OF COURSE THERE HAD BEEN A TON OF MOVEMENT IN THAT TREACHEROUS LABRYINTH AND WE WERE CONSTANTLY RAPPELLING IN AND OUT OF LARGE CREVASSES. DUE TO THE LARGE SNOWFALL OVERNIGHT, MY CRAMPONS KEPT DEVELOPING HUGE SNOW CLUMPS UNDERNEATH THEM ( AS IF THE MILLET BOOT ISNT HEAVY ENOUGH

ANYWAY) AND I KEPT FALLING OVER. I FELL INTO TWO SMALL CREVASSES BUT MANAED TO CLIMB OUT OK. I THEN DECIDED TO REMOVE MY CRAMPONS, WHICH I WILL NEVER DO AGAIN, AND WITH THE ROPE TIED AROUND MY ARM SHERPA STYLE I SLID MY WAY DOWN THE ICEFALL FALLING CONSTANTLY.

I HAD A BIG SENSE OF HUMOUR FAILURE THREE QUARTERS OF THE WAY DOWN AND ALMOST CRIED WITH FRUSTRATION.. ANDRONICO BORE THE FULL FORCE OF MY JUVENILE RAGE AS I SCREAMED THAT I DIDNT WANT TO SEE ANY MORE SNOW, SERACS OR CREVASSES AGAIN. HE WAS EXTREMELY PATIENT AS I RANTED ON ( HE PROBABLY TUNED

OFF) AND WE THEN CONTINUED ONWARDS ME FALLING ALL THE TIME. ANDRONICO IS VERY STRONG AT THE MOMENT AND IS VERY FOCUSED AND DETERMINED, IV NEVER SEEN HIM THIS FIT.

FINALLY AFTER 6 HOURS WE GOT TO BASE CAMP, IVE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY TO SEE ROCKS AND STONES! MY ARMS AND LEGS ARE COVERED IN ROPE BURNS AND BRUISES, NOT A GOOD LOOK, THANK GOD IM COVERED UP ALL THE TIME!

DAVID BREASHEARS CAME OUT TO MEET US, IT WAS SO GOOD TO SEE HIM AS HE HAS BEEN ON A DIFFERENT SCHEDULE TO US AND APART FROM A QUICK HI IN

THE ICEFALL OR EN ROUTE TO CAMP 2 WE HAVE MISSED EACH OTHER. IM GOING OVER TO SEE HIM TOMORROW WHEN HES DONE FILMING IN THE ICEFALL AND I DONT SMELL LIKE A POLE CAT.

WE HAD A DELICIOUS LUNCH - I LOVE BASECAMP!!! I SPENT THE AFTERNOON GETTING CLEAN AND SORTING OUT THE TENT AND THEN I SPOKE TO MY SISTER, TANIA AND KAT WHO WERE ALL TOGETHER AT MY SISTERS HOUSE IN HONG KONG.. I MISS THEM ALL SO MUCH!! I FINALLY TRACKED DOWN MY MOTHER AND SPOKE TO HER A FEW MINUTES AGO, I MISS HER SOOOOO MUCH.. IM NOW ON RATIONS ON THE SATELITE PHONE AS EVERYONE HAS GANGED UP ON ME AND ACCUSED ME OF USING TOO MANY MINUTES - I SWEAR ITS NOT ME!!

TOMORROW IS A REST DAY WHICH IM SO EXCITED ABOUT AND IM GOING TO DO A FEW CAMP VISITS TO GET ALL SCOOP AND IM AWAITING MY GIRLFRIEND LISAS ARRIVAL HOPEFULLY TOMORROW!! GOODNIGHT FROM EBC.