



To: WLECHA Awards Committee

I would like to nominate two teams, Officer Rose Mansavage and K9 Falko along with Officer Carren Corcoran and K9 Slim, for the Meritorious Track of the Year Award. Each team was sent to separate armed robberies on different dates that turned out to be the same suspects. Each team's track led to obtaining critical evidence identifying the vehicle used in the armed robberies, placing a GPS unit on the vehicle, and ultimately the capture of two brothers, one a former University of Wisconsin and NFL football player (article attached). The duo was responsible for 5 robberies in the City of Madison.

On 11/13/2014, at 6:45 pm, Officer Mansavage and K9 Falko, were sent to track a suspect of an armed robbery at the Madison Modern Market, 310 State Street. The suspect was seen by the clerk fleeing out of the front of the store. The reason the address of this call is noteworthy, is State Street is located in downtown Madison with a large number of businesses, bars, and food establishments. This is the near UW Madison's campus with a very high volume of foot and vehicle traffic, day and night.

After arriving on scene, Officer Mansavage spoke with the clerk who was robbed. The clerk was not sure what direction the suspect fled from the store, but stated the suspect stood on the mat in front of the counter while robbing the store. Officer Mansavage, whose K9 is trained on scent specific tracking, was presented the mat as a scent article. Falko took inventory of the officer's scent and clerk's scent and began tracking from the mat. Falko tracked east out of the store on State Street not paying attention to any of the pedestrian traffic, past Henry Street and then turned northeast on W. Johnson Street. After a short distance, Falko turned into a church driveway along the north side of the street. Falko gave his trained down alert, indicating the scent ended at this location, and likely a vehicle picked up the suspect. The total track was approximately 600 feet, the temperature was approximately 28 degrees and the wind was about 5 mph.

On 11/18/2015, at 8:16 pm, Officer Corcoran and K9 Slim were dispatched to Life is Good, 514 State Street, for another armed robbery. Officer Corcoran arrived on scene and learned that the suspect had leaned over the counter during the robbery. She used the counter as a scent article to start her track. K9 Slim is also trained on scent specific tracking. After inventorying the officers, customers, and clerk in the store, Slim tracked from the counter to the front of the store. He jumped on the front door and continued tracking out of the store, eastbound on State Street. At the intersection of State Street and W. Gilman Street, K9 Slim made an abrupt left turn on W. Gilman Street, remaining on the north side of the street. Slim continued tracking up the street past several alleyways to the intersection of N. Henry Street. Officer Corcoran observed behavior that led her to believe Slim had tracked out of odor. She brought him back to the intersection of State

Street and W. Gilman Street. This time Slim continued tracking on W. Gilman, but along the south side of the street. Slim tracked about mid block and entered the Buckeye Parking Lot which shares an entrance with W. Gilman Street and W. Gorham Street. K9 Slim turned sharply into the lot and tracked down the middle of the lot. When he neared stall 349, his forward motion slowed, then stopped. He sniffed the pavement around that stall and then laid down, which is his trained indication that the track ended at that location. Based on Officer Corcoran's experience, this was likely a vehicle pickup. The approximate length of the track was 900 feet. At the time of the track, the temperature was 8 degrees with a 10 mph wind.

Based on the team's tracks, detectives were able to review video and found a silver colored SUV which was seen leaving the area on both occasions. With further investigation, they were able to identify a likely suspect vehicle and acquire a warrant for a GPS unit. A short time after the GPS unit was installed, the robbers struck again while driving the same vehicle. They were apprehended a short distance from the robbery. These tracks were an integral part of this investigation which ultimately led to two dangerous criminal being taken off the street. The brothers plead to 9 and 9.5 year sentences, respectively.

Both of these track provided key evidence which led to the capture of these suspects. The level of difficulty of both of these tracks was extreme. Not only were these both hard surface tracks, but they were done in a heavily contaminated environments in very challenging conditions. For these reasons, I would like to nominate Officer Mansavage, her partner K9 Falko, and Officer Corcoran, and her partner K9 Slim, for the Meritorious Track of the Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergeant Jeff Felt
City of Madison Police Department
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