

MAY 9TH - BASECAMP

BACK TO THE OLD BASECAMP SCHEDULE, BED TEA AT 8.00AM AND BREAKFAST AT 8.30AM.. BED TEA IS ONE LUXURY OF BEING HERE WHICH I THINK I MAY MISS!! I NOTICED MY TENT HAS MOVED RATHER DRAMATICALLY SINCE IVE BEEN DOWN VALLEY FOR THE 4 DAYS, DUE TO THE WEATHER WARMING UP. THE GLACIER THAT WE ARE CAMPED ON IS REALLY ACTIVE AND THE CREAKING OF THE ICE AND THE SOUNDS OF STONES CRASHING IS BECOMING CONSTANTLY MORE FREQUENT. WE ARE NOW DEVELOPING POOLS OF WATER AROUND OUR CAMPSITE AS THE ICE MELTS. IM STILL NERVOUS ABOUT "WHEN"

WE ARE GOING TO GO FOR OUR SUMMIT ATTEMPT AND MY STOMACH IS STILL IN A KNOT ALTHOUGH UNFORTUNATELY IT HAS NOT CURBED MY APPETITE!! I CAUGHT UP ON MY EMAILS AND TYPED IN MY JOURNAL WHEN I RECEIVED A VISIT FROM A REALLY NICE ENGLISH GIRL CALLED ALLIE. SHE HAD BEEN TREKKING FOR 19 DAYS AND CAME TO BASECAMP TO SEE IF THERE WAS AN ENGLISH GIRL CLIMBING, NEEDLESS TO SAY THE BASECAMP NETWORK LED HER TO OUR CAMP.. IT WAS VERY NICE TO CHAT TO HER AND SHE WAS MOST IMPRESSED TO SEE I HAD UK TATER LYING IN THE COMMUNICATIONS TENT (THANKS TO LISAS PACKAGE!!)

I THEN WENT TO HAVE LUNCH IN OUR MESS TENT TO FIND THE WHOLE DISCOVERY CREW THERE HAVING A BIG POW WOW WITH OUR TEAM ABOUT WHEN WE WERE GOING FOR THE SUMMIT, ALL I CAN SAY IS WEATHER PROVIDING ITS GOING TO BE IMMINENT AND MY STOMACH CHURNED. I SPOKE TO MY FATHER ABOUT MY ANXIETY ATTACKS AND HE TOLD ME THIS WAS COMMON AMONGST ALL ATHELETES PRIOR TO A BIG EVENT...ALL I CAN SAY IS AT LEAST ALL ATHELETES HAVE A FIXED DATE FOR THEIR EVENTS, OURS CHANGES CONSTANTLY DUE TO THE WEATHER REPORTS..IF WE DO GO FOR THE SUMMIT IT WILL TAKE 4 OR 5 DAYS ON THE MOUNTAIN AND THIS IS THE VAGUE PLAN. WE WILL GO FROM BASECAMP TO CAMP 2, HAVE A REST DAY, THEN GO TO CAMP 3 AND SPEND A NIGHT, MOVE TO CAMP 4 ON THE SOUTH COL AND THEN LEAVE FOR OUR SUMMIT ATTEMPT AT AROUND 11.00PM AT NIGHT, AND ALL BEING WELL, HOPEFULLY BE BACK AT CAMP 4 BEFORE NIGHTFALL THE FOLLOWING NIGHT. IT WILL BASICALLY BE AN EXHAUSTING 5 DAYS AND THEN WE HAVE TO GET BACK DOWN..NO ONE EVER TALKS ABOUT THE DECENTS BUT I CAN PROMISE YOU COMING DOWN THE LHOTSE FACE IS MENTALLY EXHAUSTING YOU HAVE TO BE SO VIGILANT WITH YOUR ROPEWORK, CONSTANTLY CLIPPING INTO AND OFF THE FIXED LINES. AMY TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT THERE IS A LOT OF ROCK FALLING ONTO THE ROUTE ON THE LHOTSE FACE SO IM BRINGING MY HELMET WITH ME.. GOT TO PROTECT MY VALUABLE BRAIN CELLS CANT AFFORD TO LOOSE ANYMORE!! THE DISCOVERY GUYS LEFT AS OUR LUNCH ARRIVED AT AROUND 2.00PM, ANDREW IS ACCUSING MY BULKING UP WHEY PROTEIN POWDER OF CAUSING HIM TO BE SICK!! HE GAVE ME A CHOCOLATE BAR BUT I THINK HE MAY BE TRYING TO RETALIATE SO IM USING IT AS DECORATION!!

I THEN WENT AND SAW LOU ANNE TO SETTLE MY DEBTS - SHE HAS GIVEN ME THE MOST AMAZING THING FOR MY COUGH..WHENEVER I EXERT MYSELF IN THE COLD AIR I COUGH UNCONTROLLABLY AND SHE HAS GIVEN ME A PURPLE DIAL (IM SORRY I DONT HAVE THE NAME ON HAND) BUT BASICALLY ITS A POWDERED STEROID THAT U INHALE AND IT WORKS WONDERS! I BROUGHT A PURPLE DIAL FOR ANDRONICO AND ONE FOR THE REST OF THE GROUP IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY ON OUR SUMMIT ATTEMPT. I THEN PRECARIOUSLY MADE MY WAY BACK TO CAMP ACROSS THE ACTIVELY MOVING GLACIER AND READ

MAGAZINES IN MY TENT AND RELAXED PRIOR TO DINNER. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD AT DINNER THAT WE ARE GOING FOR IT SOON SO IM MAKING PREPARATIONS BUT ITS ALL WEATHER PERMITTING.. WHO KNOWS WITH THE WEATHER ANYWAY, THE PAST FEW DAYS WHEN HIGH WINDS HAVE BEEN PREDICTED, THERE HAS BEEN 3 SUMMIT DAY OPPORTUNITIES..

I HAD AN EMAIL FROM PAVLOS WHOM I WAS VERY PLEASED TO HEAR FROM - I CALLED HIM PAVO IN MY LAST JOURNAL (I MISHEARD HIS NAME AS WE PASSED ON THE GLACIER) AND HE IS THE GREEK SPONSOR SO I WANTED TO CORRECT MY SPELLING ERROR. HE IS REALLY A GREAT MAN AND I REALLY ADMIRE HIM AND THE SUPPORT HE IS PROVIDING HIS TWO TEAMS. HE HAS BEEN AT BASECAMP HERE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN FOR TWO WEEKS AND IS NOW GOING TO THE NORTH SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN FOR TWO WEEKS WHICH AT 21,000FT THE ADVANCED BASE CAMP ON THE NORTH WILL BE THE HIGHEST HE HAS BEEN IN HIS LIFE. TRUST ME, IT IS HARD SPENDING A LONG TIME AT THIS ALTITUDE FOR ANYONE AND IM SURE LISA AND PLERN WILL VOUCH FOR THAT. I WAS SORRY NOT TO HAVE MET HIM WHILST HE WAS HERE AT BASECAMP BUT I HOPE WE STAY IN TOUCH.

IM RESTLESS TONIGHT I HATE HAVING THE WHOLE SUMMIT THING LOOMING OVER ME...I THINK I JUST NEED TO GET OUT THERE AND GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT, IVE BEEN AT BASECAMP NEARLY 6 WEEKS NOW CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? GOOD NIGHT FROM EBC!