

## NGSPA Hawkeye Open Shooting Dog Championship April 17-18, 2017

The 2017 running of the NGSPA Hawkeye Open Shooting Dog Championship was sponsored by the German Shorthaired Pointing Club of Central Iowa and run over the Hoehns-Langstraat farm near Columbia, Iowa April 17-18. Southern Iowa has been dry for most of the spring with little snow over the winter. That changed with 6 inches of rain the week before the running and another 2 inches during the event. The course is typical southern Iowa rolling hills country with open river bottoms, wooded draws, many CRP acres on sidehills with hilltops mostly bean stubble at this time of year. The river bottoms were decidedly wet with hard riding for the horses and hard running for the dogs. Twenty-four entries vied for this year's title and were watched over closely by two knowledgeable dog men. This year's judges included Randy Caldwell of La Porte City, Iowa, a well respected vizsla trainer who has developed and campaigned his Pepperjack Kennel dogs. We were also fortunate to procure the services of Jarrett Bell, founder of Big Gun Kennels of Troy, Mo who has had national success with his line of vizslas. Both men like powerful running, hard going, stylish dogs and their selections verified this.

### The Winners:

Named Champion was Jax's Tornado Allie, a coming 6 yo solid liver headed, moderate ticked female owned by Adam Burch of Smithville, Mo and handled by Illinois professional, Rich Barber. Allie had 4 exquisite, well spaced finds. She is picturesque standing and maintained her intensity throughout flush and shot. She's fluid on the ground and seemed to show up at the right places, pointing birds. Barber said he's been running her for about the last 3 years and has had good success with the dog. While he's put a lot of the polish and ground race on this successful female, he's quick to give credit to her owner Adam Burch who broke Allie and was instrumental in her early development.

Named runner up was The Kansas Wind (Mariah) handled by Phil Mathiowetz, professional from Goodhue, Minnesota. Mariah is a 3 yo female marked similarly to the winner. Mathiowetz is responsible for the development and training of Mariah for owner Ken Sanderson of Olathe, KS. Mariah ran in near 80 degree heat with a fast, forward, stylish 3 find race including an incredibly dug in, well handled find at time.

Weather plays a role in any stake and this was no different. Morning lows were around 50 degrees warming to 78 by midafternoon. Comfortable for handlers and gallery, a bit warm for hard running dogs. The wind was ever present blowing mostly 10-15 mph out of the southwest.

### The Running:

Uodibar's Nacho Brown "Nacho" (Barber) a large solid liver shorthair male was released in the first brace along with Snowy River's Cuttin Country "Dozer" (VerDoorn). Dozer scored first at 4 with a nice early find. Dozer had finds at 10 and 14 on the second bottom and below Foltz's with clean work on each find. Meanwhile Nacho had an unfortunate bird encounter and was picked up at 12. Dozer went on a bird finding spree with another find at 19 before suffering an unproductive at 25. He then went on to score at 32, with two nice relocations scoring at 39 and 52. A final stand at 58 produced only a pile of feathers. Dozer ran a fast pace, finishing the entire hour.

Brace 2 ran Flapjack's Twisted Sister "Nova" (Hann) as a bye. Nova is a large solid liver headed female with marking over the right shoulder and tail base. Nova scored early and often with clean finds at 5 and 12 on the first two bottoms before scoring a nice find on a wild hen pheasant at 22, all in order. Nova struck again at 25 below the third water bucket. At 34 Nova showed her good manners with a solid stop to flush, hurried to the front and then scored on the derby breakaway grove a single quail at 42. At 46 the shorthair found a single quail in the middle of an open field flushed from the prior brace. A second stop to flush at 50 completed the birdwork. Nova required minimal scouting, was to the front throughout the hour and still had gas in the tank at time.

Brace 3 paired this year's winner Jax's Tornado Allie "Allie" (Barber) with LSV's Hammer Down "Hammer" (Jorgensen). Both dogs broke away with good speed. Allie scoring first at 10 with a nice find on the second bottom. Allie showing impressive style with head and tail skyward. At 17 Hammer and Allie shared a nice divided find before the third water bucket. Both dogs well behaved, good style by both. Both dogs running hard and ranging nicely, Allie with a bit more aggressive race. At 26 before Longshot's crossing, Hammer was found standing for what appeared to be a stop to flush, showing nice manners for a young dog. From here, both dogs were back to the front with Allie scoring with extreme style at 42 on the back of Wayne's farm and again at 56 just north of his pond. Both finds showed incredible intensity with no let down after the shot or flush. An entertaining brace by both dogs. Hammer did a nice job and is only 15 months old. Allie was always up front, fast, and had impeccable poise/style on her birds.

Brace 4 included Dulac's Princess Fiona "Fi" (Barber) and Cajun's Burning Sensation (Hagan). Casey unfortunately came upon a bird in open bean stubble right off the breakaway and couldn't withstand the temptation, picking up at 4. Fiona went to work with nice finds on the levee with clean bird work at 12 and 14. Fiona then spread out and aggressively covered the course. As we were topping Dude's CRP, Fiona could be seen making a huge move past Langstraat's wetland. Before getting to the road, she scored at 30, pointing across a small creek, Barber showing birds on the other side. A nice piece of work. After crossing the road, Fi opened up again, scoring in the northeast corner of Longshot's breakaway region at 37. Fi had the birds pointed on the other side of the fence, requiring a little fence climbing by Barber to complete the clean find. This little female had a nice run with an aggressive forward race and was quite stylish on point.

Brace 5 paired last year's runner up Badlands Grizzly Bear "Bear" (Bryant) and Windwalker's Sexie Sadie "Sadie" (Mathiowetz). Both dogs took off quickly with Bear a bit more aggressive of the two early. Sadie scored first with a nice find at 10 on the levee. Birds were well located and nice style and manners were shown. This was repeated with a second find at 18 below Foltz's. Sadie hustled to the front to meet up with Bear at the crossing onto Langstraat's wetland bottom. Both dogs were found pointing on the south edge of the course near Carruther's Creek, neither dog looking certain. No bird was produced for a double unproductive. Both dogs opened up for the next several minutes. Bear pointed on the north edge of Longshot's for an unproductive at 45. Members of the gallery noted a bird leaving the area. Sadie encountered the situation and had a beautiful long distance back. Despite an enthusiastic handling effort, Bryant felt Bear wasn't getting it done today and picked up. The temperature was

reaching near 80 degrees this afternoon and Sadie continued to hustle, hitting all the birdy spots. A nice run in the heat for the three year old female.

Brace 6 paired Dammurhide's Aint Misbehavin "Hank" (Mathiowetz) and Outbak's Free Grazier "Mike" (Barber). This brace was shortened with Mike seen moving under a flying bird(s) at 10. Hank had an unproductive at 14. Mathiowetz wasn't happy with Hank's race in the heat and elected to pick up.

Brace 7 put together Outbak's He's For Me "Reggie" (Barber) and Hi-N's Heel on Wheels "Lucy" (Loftin). Reggie's race was cut short with a bird mishap at 4. Lucy had a nice find at 8. She was in the cubby hole on the first bottom. DJ Paltani was scouting the brace for Larry Loftin. We all have our gifts, DJ Palatani's is horses. After the call of point, Larry's horse stalled on him. In fine scout fashion, DJ offered his mount to Larry. Larry dismounted, then in one of the most athletic moves I've seen in some time, DJ brought his horse next to Larry's equine and switched mounts. I don't think he had a foot in a stirrup. He hovered for a couple seconds between the two horses before rolling into the new horse's saddle. I wish I would have videotaped it, as I'm still not sure exactly how he did it.. but a super smooth transition! With his new mount, Larry got to Lucy in the cubby hole and flushed. All in order. He then set off to the front and had a nice find again at 20 before the water bucket. Lucy had a nice shooting dog race, but the heat was starting to have its effect and Larry opted to pick her up at the halfway mark.

Brace 8 paired this year's runner-up The Kansas Wind "Mariah" (Mathiowetz) and Odyssey's Perfect Traveler "Charlie" (Hann). Both dogs broke away in the heat of the day and covered a lot of ground. Charlie scored at 11 with a nice find on the north edge of the third bottom. Charlie scored again before the third water bucket with a dug in find pointing on the edge of a deep ravine with 2 quail observed in the ditch by judges. Mariah scored at 28 with a find before the road crossing. Bird location with the heat and breeze wasn't obvious, requiring relocation x 2. Mathiowetz's persistence paid off with a bird being found after a lengthy flushing attempt. Charlie was in the area and didn't back, but was felt not to have seen the pointing dog by judges, so kept down. Charlie went on to another nice find at 36 near Longshot's breakaway. Charlie showing nice manners with shifting scent and the bird being flushed behind him. Charlie had another nice find at 47 on the north edge of Wayne's. Mariah hustling forward in the heat, scoring again with a nice find at 53 on tree line west of the pond. The race ended with John Hann finding Charlie on point at 57. Hann with difficulty flushing in extremely thick cover, walked around a fallen pine tree to find Mariah pointing the same bird. A divided find at time. Both dogs with nice races, advantage to Mariah on a hot afternoon.

Brace 9 matched Outbak's Let It Ride "Rider" (Barber) with Murphy's Rock Star "Roxie" (Mathiowetz). Both dogs broke away the morning of the second day of running. Both dogs scoring a nice divided find on the second bottom at 9. Rider had an unfortunate incident with birds at 11 and was picked up. Roxie scored in the corner terrace at 12 and again at 21, both clean well broke finds. Unfortunately she was seen under birds at 31 on Wayne's bottom and picked up.

Brace 10 was run as a bye brace with Greyrock's Mile Marker "Saint" (Barber). Saint scored right away at 5 off the breakaway. Moving forward scored near the water bucket at 19 and again at 26 near Wayne's crossing. Saint made a nice move to the road, scoring again at 35 near the breakaway on the derby course. Saint then went on to score on a dug in find North of Wayne's pond at 44 and a second find further north at 54. All with nice manners. Saint ran a solid forward race with a good finish.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Brace included Franchi's Son Of A Gun "Frank" (Heller) and Snowy River's Full Strut "Strut" (Verdoorn). Both dogs broke away strongly and were found standing at 7 on the first bottom on separate finds in heavy cover. After some maneuvering to get to the dogs through some standing water, both handlers flushed. Frank marking flight, Strut unmoved. Both dogs moved on to the front, with a bit of an extended absence both dogs requiring heavy scouting early. Strut back to the front before the road crossing with a find at 36 near the derby breakaway. Relocation unsuccessful. Frank was gone for an extended period of time and Heller asked for the tracker at 38. Strut went on to have a nice find on the back of Wayne's at 43 and scored again west of the pond at 48. Strut finished well. A bit of an erratic first half, but nice final 30 minutes.

Brace 12 paired She's Miles Of Sass "Sassy" (Barber) and Windwalker's Prairiewind Sheila "Sheila" (Mathiowetz). Sheila scored at 10 with a nice find on the second bottom with Sassy picked up for failing to back. Mathiowetz felt Sheila wasn't putting down the effort needed to move the winners and picked up at 12.

The final brace paired last year's winner Riverside Farms No Sleep Till Brook Lyn "Brooklyn" (Barber) and Stoney Hills Bustin' Loose "Kalli" (Loftin). Kali scored right before entering the first bottom with a nice find on single quail at 5. Brooklyn is a stylish female that had a nice find at 9, but unfortunately turned and took a step at flush, ending her run. Kalli got to the front and went on to score again at 19 near the second water bucket. All in order. The temperature had warmed significantly and Loftin felt Kalli didn't have quite enough to challenge the dogs ahead of her and subsequently picked up. Larry Loftin jokingly noted that even though he didn't finish his brace, at least he lasted longer than last year's champion!

Any trial requires help from a lot of individuals to make things run smoothly. Land owners Wayne and Jo Langstraat and Dude and Rachel Hoehns' generosity in allowing us to run over this fine venue is greatly appreciated. Chairman Jeff Wallace's efforts to keep the trial running smoothly were rewarded with a well run event. John Roslien helped with the dog wagon along with Keith Thompson. Keith unfortunately missed part of the event secondary to a disagreeable gallbladder. Carolyn Wallace helped with meals and her help is always appreciated. We'd like to thank everyone who entered and hope you enjoyed running in the trial as much as we enjoyed putting it on.

As always, we want to thank our sponsors. Purina helped out tremendously with generous donations of Pro Plan to the winners. Gun Dog Supply donated gift cards which were raffled as well. All in all a fun event with several nice performances.

Brent Hoehns