

In 1995 Michael Jordan returned to the Chicago Bulls after retiring and spending a year playing baseball with the minor league Birmingham Barons. That same year, Jerry Jordan (no relation) christened the inaugural NGSPA Hawkeye Open Shooting Dog Championship which has been run annually at the Pleasant Creek Wildlife Area near Palo, Iowa. This season, the championship has moved locales. The German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Central Iowa hosted the event on privately owned land near Columbia, Iowa. The new location is typical of the rolling hills of the southern portion of Iowa. Acres of CRP, harvested corn fields, river bottoms, wetlands, and timber filled draws made for a beautiful setting with lots of objectives. Landowners Wayne Langstraat and Dude Hoehns were gracious hosts, allowing us access to their farms to showcase these fine dogs.

This year's champion was Riverside Farms No Sleep Til Brook Lyn. Brook won the event with a five find performance and a fast, front running, intelligent race. Brook is owned by Chuck Lane of West Branch, Michigan who obtained her as a puppy. He placed his young charge with Filmore, Illinois professional Rich Barber. Rich and his wife Joyce have done an outstanding job developing this youngster. Brook is still three months shy of her second birthday. Runner-Up in this renewal was the veteran shorthair Badlands Grizzly Bear owned by Bruce and Chris Bryant and handled by Bruce Bryant of Silver City, Iowa. Bear had a 10 find performance with an intelligent forward race, opening up when not on birds. Bear is a six year shorthair and just entering his prime.

Also just entering their prime were this year's judges. This season we were lucky enough to obtain the services of two very knowledgeable field trial gentlemen. Ned Myers is from Mt Vernon, Iowa and has many years of experience training and handling pointers in the Midwest. He's currently retired from a management position and helps oversee a group of service stations. He was partnered this weekend with Jim Douglas of Nebraska. Jim is a retired manager for an energy company and has also spent many years training and campaigning his pointers. Both judges were attentive, good natured, and while there were several dogs with nice runs, the results were well received.

No trial is complete without lots of help. Jeff Wallace chaired the trial, kept things on schedule, and planted birds. Keith Thompson ran the dog wagon and directed traffic along with a myriad of other duties. His wife Angie and Carolyn Wallace helped serve meals during the championship as well.

The Running:

Right Stuff's Slick Pick "Gus" (Barber) and Badlands Grizzly Bear (Bryant) The first brace of the trial broke away with temperatures at 64 degrees and a south breeze at 5-10 mph. The scoring came early and often for Bear. Bear scored at 5. The dog seemed uncertain, handler calling him on. Bear circled the area then re-established point. Bird was flushed, all in order. At 10 Bear was found on point on the second bottom all in order. Gus was picked up at this juncture for a breach of manners, as he politely declined his opportunity to back. Bear stood well throughout the mishap. Bear went on to have solid finds at 16, 20, 23, 24, and 28 before really getting a chance to run. He then did open up, making nice moves to the front, with an exceptional limb find at 51. He finished well, with clean work at 55 and 57. Left over birds from the weekend trial and cooler weather let Bear score 10 finds with a solid forward race.

Riverside Farms No Sleep Til Brook Lyn (Barber) and Dammurhide's Aint Misbehavin "Hank" (Mathiowetz) Both dogs broke away with good speed. Brook scored first at 6 on the first bottom with Hank backing, all in order. They were released with Brook scoring again at 12 on the second bottom. Brook was seen to swap ends on this find and was standing with extreme style. Brook took a half step to mark flight. Hank had a nice back on this piece of work. Both dogs were well ahead and found on Longshot's wetland at 28 with a divided find. The dogs separated after this. Hank suffered an unproductive at 42. This was followed by a nice find at 48 just west of the pond. By report, Brook had 2 stylish finds during this time period as well, all in order. Both dogs finished the hour, Brook with the more forward, aggressive race.

Greyrock's Mile Marker "Saint" (Barber) and Murphy's Cheap Trick "Trixie" (Mathiowetz)-Saint scored first at the first turn off the breakaway just 3 minutes into the brace. This was a stylish clean find with Trixie backing. Sent on Trixie had an unproductive at 16 below Foltz's draw. She had clean finds at 22 and 26, birds well located and maintaining good composure after flush. Saint then had clean work at 30, 36 and 42. All in order. Trixie had a nice find at 47 on the far side of Wayne's big tire draw. Birds located well in very thick cover. Coming forward to catch up, Saint had a nice find at 52 on the back of the course. Trixie pointed near this area 2 minutes later. A separate bird was produced after a nice relocation. Both dogs finished the hour.

Murphy's Rock Star "Roxy" (Mathiowetz) and Uodibar's Nacho Brown (Barber) Were loosed after lunch. Temperatures had risen to 75 degrees and winds increased to about 15 mph. After breakaway Roxy scored at 13 crossing out of the second bottom. Unfortunately today Roxy was spending a bit too much time in the thick ditches and not handling to suit Mathiowetz, who elected to pick her up at 31. The big, thick all liver Nacho was lost early, with Barber asking for the tracker at 16.

Dulac's Princess Fiona "Fi" (Barber) and Ruger's Rock'n Rogue (Heller)- Clouds came back out, with the breeze slowing for the second brace of the afternoon. Both dog's broke away with good speed to the front. Fi was found at 15 pointing intensely in the second draw below Foltz's. It was a very stylish find but she marked flight with just a little extra foot movement. At 15 Rogue was found pointing. After a prolonged flushing attempt the dog was sent on. About 1 minute later, in a different area the dog pointed again. Another lengthy flushing attempt produced quail per the judges, per the gallery a running hen pheasant was noticed, and per the handler a deer shed was also found. With Rogue behind on the course, Fi went to work, scoring at 28 a nice really dug in find before the hairpin tank. She had a stop to flush at 25, then went on to have stylish finds at 26 and 28. Rogue had caught up at this time and as the dogs hit Longshot's bottom, Rogue had a find at 32 with Fi backing. All in order. Both dogs then opened up for the next 20 minutes covering good country, hitting objectives, requiring little scouting. Rogue unfortunately suffered a second unproductive at 52. Fi finished the hour strong, still hunting the edges to the front.

RTK's Calcuttta Clipper "Cali" (Hagan) and Outbak's Let It Ride "Rider"(Barber)-Both dogs broke away strongly. Rider was seen briefly at the five minute mark, then again at 19 minutes. Barber felt his dog wasn't making a difference today and picked up. Hagan called for the tracker at 23.

Zumbo's Domino of Crow Creek (Hagan) and The Kansas Wind "Mariah" (Mathiowetz) Broke away in the first brace on the second day. The temperature had cooled overnight to 55 degrees with just a mild breeze coming from the west. We received ¼" of rain overnight helping scenting conditions. Mariah had a clean find at 4 on the first bottom with Domino backing. All well done. Domino scored again at 7

with a clean find. At 12 Domino unfortunately had a breach of manners and was picked up. Mariah had nice finds at 13 and 21. Standing nicely for a low flying, tempting bird on the former. Unfortunately, after a prolonged flushing effort, Mariah bumped birds during a relocation attempt and was picked up at 25.

Outbak's Free Grazier "Mike" (Barber) and Franchi's Son of a Gun "Frank" (Heller) Both dogs broke away covering lots of ground early. Mike had an indiscretion with a bird at 13 and was picked up. Frank showed great ground speed and style, but a little erratic in pattern. He had a nice find at 25 with birds located downwind from his stand. At 34 he had a very stylish find and a third find with birds pinned at 39. Both of these with birds well located and standing tall. At 48 he suffered an unproductive above Wayne's Pond before finishing the hour with plenty of fuel in the tank.

Windwalker's Sexie Sadie (Mathiowetz) and What's The Point Flint (Barber) both broke away with good speed and style, however a breach of manners involving both dogs and a bird resulted in both being picked up at 15.

Cajun's Burning Sensation "Casey" (Hagan) broke away by herself as the last brace of the trial. At 8 Casey had a point on a cold, dead quail. Sent on, she had a barren stand at 16 below Foltz's draw where birds were moved in the prior brace. At 20 she had a find requiring a lengthy flushing attempt, the dog allowed to relocate and scored on a single woodcock. At 23 Casey had a nice find at the hairpin water bucket. All in order. At 28 she scored a nice find at the property line on a brace of quail. Unfortunately a pad issue wasn't letting her get it done on the ground today, and she was picked up at 37.