

National Red Setter Shooting Dog Championship

Bearcat and Desperado, Roger Boser's Contenders, Win Honors

WHEN the nineteen dogs entered in the recent National Red Setter Shooting Dog Championship had competed at the Green River Wildlife Area near Ohio, Ill., two dogs emerged as the undisputed winners — Bearcat and Desperado. Some may have had the placements reversed, but both dogs had earned the winners' circle. Both are owned and handled by Roger W. Boser, retired veterinarian and now bird dog developer from Seven Valleys, Pa.

Both dogs had great bird work, and both had commendable ground races, Bearcat's perhaps a mite stronger, and his limb find on pheasant was perhaps the element that tipped the titular scales in his favor.

The 1992 running of this national event for Red Setters attracted a field of nineteen, drawing entries from Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana and Pennsylvania. The companion Open Derby brought seven juvenile contenders to the line; the two stakes required two days to complete.

The Championship was held under favorable conditions at the northern Illinois venue known as Green River, a site that has been the focus of a stormy series of events during the past eight months. In October, there is likely no more picturesque spot in northern Illinois than Green River, but the firestorm surrounding the 2400-acre multi-purpose site has dimmed the luster from this popular acreage. The venue is well patronized by bird dog fans. Its geographical location is convenient for Illinois field trial enthusiasts and those of surrounding states. The site hosts several major stakes — this Red Setter event in the fall, and the National German Pointing Dog Championships and the Illinois Open Shooting Dog Championship in the spring.

When Illinois Governor Jim Edgar took office, he brought on board for the Illinois Department of Conservation personnel whose focus and philosophy for the Green River site differed dramatically from that which has prevailed for the past thirty or more years. The Illinois legislature designated six sites in Illinois as "permanent field trial venues", and the 2,400 acres at Green River are among them. The Illinois Department of Conservation appears intent on designating the area according to its plans. Bill Wittgan is the area manager, having served on the area for some fifteen years and succeeding

and steady, immaculate bird work. If there was a "knit to pick" with either dog's performance it would be his finish. Both were strong early and through the middle of the hour, but neither distinguished himself with a firebrand finish.

Counting bird work, Desperado outscored his kennelmate 3-2, but Bearcat's second find — out on a limb — dug up and at the end of an ambitious cast, drew the judges' favor.

Bird work was plentiful. Stevie Ray had a good find in the opening brace and concluded his effort with a piece of work on a woodcock. Northern Star scored on a woodcock also, but negated that work by knocking a pheasant. C C Little Darlin had a dug-up find on a large covey of quail, but that work went for naught when she had two unproductives.

THE COMPETITION

Cloudy skies prevailed at the start, but there was a forecast of clearing later in the day. That didn't materialize, and by late afternoon the temperatures, which began in the mid-40s, had dipped, and would drop lower overnight.

ek) were off at 9:41 and the former forgot his "comeback", bored to the side and considerable time elapsed before Beyer had the dog back in front, and when seen, it was still tug and haul between dog and handler. Bye was forward and biddable. She reeled off several good casts early in the heat, one especially impressive as she grabbed forward field line and swung it to the front, only to mar the effort by swinging back to handler. She appeared to dig in in the closing minutes, but was in sight at time.

Desperado (Boser) and Yonder (Bruns) were away quickly on No. 3. Dale Bruns rode directly ahead of the judges, and but on occasion sent scout to keep tabs on Yonder. Desperado was forward, workmanlike and at 25 Boser called point. He called that the "bird was running", and was advised by Judge Garrett to try and flush it, which he was able to do, the hen pheasant winging high and away. Desperado mannerly for the work. Desperado pointed again at 38, the dog mostly concealed by the thick cover, and Boser again produced a pheasant. Yonder pointed at nearly the same time, handsomely posed on coverline. When the initial flushing produced nothing, he was sent to relocate, pointed again, flagged just a mite. Bruns tapped the dog and it seemed he barely took a step when he stopped as the ringneck flushed. Desperado scored again commendably 6 minutes later and followed that with another stand at edge of corn feed patch that proved



CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

From left: Bearcat, the winner, with Roger W. Boser; Desperado, the runner-up, with Don W. Beauchamp.

Restless Runner (Grove) and Stevie Ray (Zdanc- unproductive. Yonder was standing in foxtails near

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Bill Wittigan is the area manager, having served on the area for some eighteen years and succeeding Bill Martin as the overseer of the Green River site. Debbie Wittigan pitched in to drive the dog wagon.

The National Red Setter Field Trial Club, under whose auspices these events are held, is now in its fortieth year. Its purpose is to promote and to improve the Irish setter breed as a field dog, and the NRSFTC holds two national championship events, its Futurity and an Amateur Championship to foster and support these goals. Dale Bruns of Greensburg, Ind., is currently the president of the NRSFTC; Robert DuPuis of Sulphur, La., is 1st vice-president; Robert White of North Grosvenordale, Conn., is 2d v-p.; Conrad Plenvic is secretary-treasurer. Mike Temby of Sheboygan, Wis., was slated to serve as field trial chairman for this renewal, but a new job forced him to relinquish this spot. Jim McGrain, Bob Gove, Ed Liermann and Stan Zdzaneczewicz pitched in to make sure "all the bases were covered".

The judges were Mac Garrett of Kimmunity, Ill., and Al J. Mueller of Wentzville, Mo. They are an experienced pair, both having trained and handled their own dogs as well as judging several of the field trial game's leading stakes. They were in agreement on what they were looking for in the winners, and endeavored to offer each contender the opportunity to show to best advantage.

THE WINNERS

Bearcat and Desperado earned their way to the charmed circle with good forward ground efforts



CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

From left: Bearcat, the winner, with Roger W. Boser; Desperado, the runner-up, with Don W. Beauchamp.

Restless Roamer (Gove) and Stevie Ray (Zdzaneczewicz) were the lead-off pair, the twosome veering right on the breakaway and appearing to make game early. Stevie Ray came on through the hedge-line to the front while Roamer continued his foray down the line and later it was reported that he had pointed, and when handler flushed the birds came back toward the dog, which turned to mark flight.

As the dog was brought on to the front Roamer pointed at 12, ticked a time or two then firmed nicely, but try as he might Gove could not produce. On the way to catch the front, the call of "Point!" was heard from the side in the distance, Stevie Ray's scout Shawn Kinkelaar calling the dog standing in firelane pointing into heavy overgrown brush. Handler had moved well ahead and Kinkelaar proceeded to flush, quail exiting out the back side of the brush, the dog upright and mannerly for the work. Roamer was then found buried in heavy cover pointing by Katherine Gove, scouting; when the judge arrived handler advised that a pheasant had exited, but it was not seen officially. Stevie countered with a stand of his own; it also was unproductive. Roamer stopped again at 42; the flushing and relocation went for naught and Gove elected to take the dog up. Stevie Ray had swung widely to the side and the party waited until time when point was called. When riders reached the spot the dog was buried in thick cover. Stan got down on his hands and knees to reach the dog, and a woodcock flushed to cap his effort.

Come Back Little Choo (Beyer) and Bye (Your-

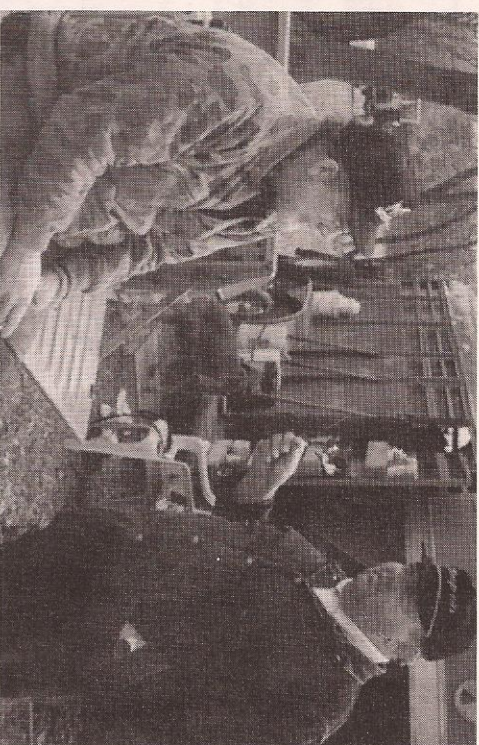
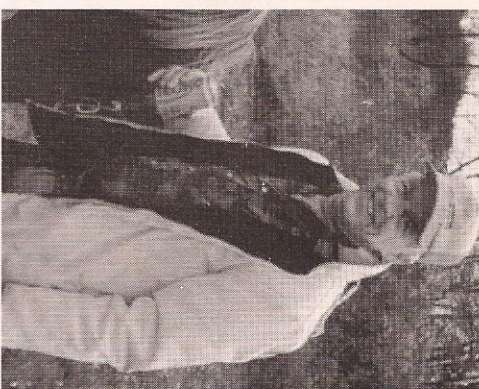
unproductive. Yonder was standing in foxtails near time, but that work was blank. Yonder was not as strong at the end, and Desperado finished ahead.

Northern Star (Gove) and Celtic's Class Action (Beyer) were way at 12:54. The former began auspiciously with a mannerly woodcock find which Judge Garrett described as "letter perfect". That commendable bird work was followed by a condemning piece after the half, when the dog, in high weedy cover, had a run-in with a big rooster pheasant and was taken up. Class Action was all "class" on an opening piece of work at 8 when the dog pointed on treeline, flagged slightly, then tightened as Beyer flushed over a wide area, but the birds were waddled up tightly close to the dog, several more quail flying after the shot. Action pointed again shortly after this, relocated, pointed again, but the work was unproductive. At 27 Action pointed nicely and though Beyer flushed over a wide area in front nothing was produced. He tapped the dog to relocate. Action took two steps, stopping as the pheasant exploded from right in front, mannerly for the shot. The dog came into the area where Star and the cock pheasant had had their encounter and when apprised Beyer took the dog on. There was no further action, the dog hunting on till time.

Motion Magic (Beauchamp) and Come Back Fire Boy (Beyer). The former was not on hand. Boy was energetic, aggressive and appealing. He pointed at 22 on tangled coverline. A red squirrel was in a tree in the line and moving, and when it hit the ground, Fire Boy zeroed in on the critter, but was



From left, the judges, Mac Garrett and Al Mueller. Center: Dale Bruns, National Red Setter Club president. At right: Paul Ober and Stan Zdanczewicz chat during the luncheon recess.



quickly in hand on his way to the front. As the dog was being taken down the road, he stopped on the edge and Beyer attempted to whistle him on. When he would not budge handler dismounted and flushed methodically over a broad area, then came back and allowed the dog to relocate thoroughly. Nothing was produced. A short time later on opposite road hedge Boy pointed handsomely into hedge line. Beyer strove to rouse a bird from the heavy cover to no avail. When handler returned to his horse he brought out the leash.

Penny's Sassy Sandy (Zdanczewicz) and Firewater (Gove) were a contrasting pair, Firewater the larger of the twosome with a larger stride, Sandy spirited and quick. Sandy made game on an early coverline, moved on then pointed on the opposite side. Nothing was produced on the flushing attempt and sent to relocate, she worked the line then moved into cornfield upwind. When riders following her work passed the hedge line a cock pheasant flushed. Zdanczewicz quickly fired his gun, though the incident was sketchy. Firewater rambled through the country, put together several commendable casts, but looped some of them. In the overall his effort was strong and drew admiring comments from the judges. When Sandy shortened after the half, she was taken up.

A seventh brace was readied — C C Little Darlin (Liemann) and Come Back Makita (Bruns) — away at 4:04. Darlin impressed from the bell with a quick energetic effort, while Makita bore into the side hunting for game. Point was called for Darlin at 8, the dog buried in thick overgrown hedge line, but the birds were on the outside of the cover and her

one side of the course while Bearcat canvassed the opposite side earnestly. Handler called point for Charlie at cornfield strip at 5; quail was produced, the dog mannerly. Later a pheasant flushed in the distance and Charlie was credited with a stop to flush. Bearcat pointed at 9 at patch of trees, a pheasant running in the inside. Boser was able to get it airborne, the dog behaving well. He was strong and forward, gone for a brief time near the half when the sound of "Point" was heard in the distance. It was quite a ride to cornfield edge, and Bearcat was posed handsomely. Handler sent a ring-neck to wing, the dog's manners of the highest order. A great limb find. Bearcat rendered a strong effort for 50 minutes, shortened a mile in the closing minutes, but finished ahead. Just after time, point was called for Charlie. The dog was standing on edge of thicket. When riders arrived they encircled the edge of the thicket. Handler could get nothing to fly, came back to the dog, then a galleryite called attention to a pheasant not more than ten feet from Charlie. When it was flushed, it chose the path of least resistance, the direction of the dog.

Celtic's Sustained Appeal (Beyer), as a bye, went well in the opening minutes. Point was called ahead, the dog standing majestically, but the flushing, and relocation that followed, produced nothing. Beyer eventually picked the dog up after the half when her range shortened.

Ohio, Ill., October 29
Judges: Mac Garrett and Albert J. Mueller
NATIONAL RED SETTER OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] —
19 Irish Setters

Winner: Bearcat, 12917266, Irish setter male, by Come

BIRD DOG FOUNDATION NEWS

NEWS of the passing of Edward Frisella, veteran field trialer in the ranks of New England sportsmen, sparked a movement to raise funds (\$1000) to present to his family a Life's Patron Award from the Bird Dog Foundation as a memorial tribute to his long association and many contributions to field trials in New England and elsewhere. This effort was so successful that the funds were oversubscribed in very short order.

Recently this plaque was presented to his son, Richard, on behalf of the family by Truman F. Cowles, another longtime devotee on the New England scene. The plaque will belong to the Frisella family while another will hang in the Bird Dog Museum at Grand Junction, Tenn., in Edward Frisella's memory.



country, put together several commendable casts, but looped some of them. In the overall his effort was strong and drew admiring comments from the judges. When Sandy shortened after the half, she was taken up.

A seventh brace was readied — C C Little Darlin (Liermann) and Come Back Makita (Brunns) — away at 4:04. Darlin impressed from the bell with a quick energetic effort, while Makita bore into the side hunting for game. Point was called for Darlin at 8, the dog buried in thick overgrown hedge-line, but the birds were on the outside of the cover and her handler flushed a large bevy that exploded with a flurry. After the course had merged with the No. 1 arrangement, as riders passed through pine planting a pheasant was in the air and Makita in hot pursuit, much to the chagrin of her gentleman-handler. The luster was taken from Darlin's excellent earlier find when she suffered two unproductives, both in areas of high cover. After road crossing for the final minutes, she began to shorten as Liermann hunted her to time.

Zan Sett Bootleg (Zdanczewicz) and Come Back Sugar Bear (Beyer) began the second day's activities at 8:05 and Bootleg got the action going with a stylish stand at 5 where handler prodded a hen pheasant to wing, the stylish dog exhibiting commendable manners. Both dogs were industrious, hunting the country forwardly. Bear pointed at 26 standing handsomely just off roadside. Bootleg and handler had become separated and the dog came into the area, passed the pointing dog and was whoaed. Zdanczewicz was apprised of the infraction and took the dog up. Bear's work ended unproductively after a relocation. Bear scored at 41, a pheasant produced for the mannerly dog at pine tree, another ringneck flushing after the shot. Near time Bear pointed in sunflower field; when Beyer's methodical flushing produced nothing, the dog was sent to relocate, but that proved blank and time had expired.

Zan Sett's Charlie (Zdanczewicz) and Bearcat (Boser) burned the opening portion of the course, Charlie with an especially energetic cast rimming

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Ohio, Ill., October 29

Judges: Mac Garrett and Albert J. Mueller

NATIONAL RED SETTER OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] —

19 Irish Setters

Winner—BEARCAT, 1291796, Irish setter male, by Come Back Choo Choo—Sugar Plum Christmas, Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.
Runner-Up—DESPERADO, 1336808, Irish setter male, by Bearcat—Come Back Rosie, Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

OPEN DERBY

Among the seven young contenders in the Open Derby, there was little to separate them in terms of ground efforts. All were energetic and eager, exhibiting potential for the future.

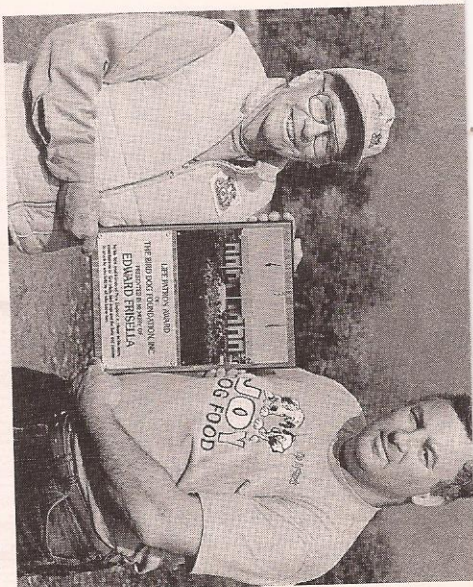
Pettibone, the winner, appeared as a bye and, like the others, had a forward effort. His winning margin came right as time was to be called when he stopped on course trail ahead pointing. His demeanor was above reproach and Boser flushed a single quail from the cover toward which the dog was pointing. "Pete" exhibiting admirable manners for the flush and shot. The dog had pointed at 29 and was ordered up after the work.

Sneakers and Outrider, second and third, respectively, were braced together. The former had a quail contact at corn strip at 15 where handler called the flush of the birds, while Outrider had an undefined pheasant contact, the ringneck flushing just a minute or so later.

The balance of the entries were Boy (Ed Liermann); Restless Red Bandana and Restless Red Rose (Bob and Katherine Gove); Celtic's Sustained Appeal (Paul Ober).

OPEN DERBY — 7 Irish Setters

1st—PETTIBONE, 1370092, Irish setter male, by Matlock—Hootin Annie, R. W. Boser, owner and handler.
2d—SNEAKERS, 1370448, Irish setter female, by Desperado—Pollywog, R. W. Boser, owner and handler.
3d—OUTRIDER, 1369208, Irish setter male, by Matlock—Poker Annie, D. W. Beauchamp, owner and handler.



Presentation of Memorial Life Patron's Award of the Bird Dog Foundation to Richard Frisella (right), son of the late Edward Frisella, by Truman Cowles.

NATIONAL AMATEUR PHEASANT SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

(Special Bulletin)

Harpster, Ohio

When the 35th edition of the National Amateur Pheasant Shooting Dog Championship concluded, Roger Martens' classy pointer male Rocky's Boy was named champion over a field of 45 other contenders. "Tiny", handled by owner Martens of Ridgeville, Ont., had a far-out pheasant find with perfect style and manners and a strong well-applied ground effort on the muddy courses of the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Management Area. The runner-up was Billy's Little Ben, pointer male owned and handled by John Evans of Sun Prairie, Wis. Ben scored on a quail covey with excellent style and perfect manners. Ben also had a strong ground effort with excellent handle considering his range.

Judges Bob Durbin of Richmond, Ky., and Larry Walters of Effingham, Ill., presided.

FRANK LYONS