

NEMAHA BOOT WINS 28TH MIDWESTERN STATES SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

By: Tony King

The 28th running of the Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity started bright and early, Saturday morning on March the 7th and concluded late Sunday afternoon the following day. A strong renewal had 25 dogs entered but only 20 were drawn and participated as winter storms wreaked havoc in Oklahoma and Arkansas causing several entrants to withdraw prior to the drawing . Although these winter storms had caused the cancellation and delay of many field trials across the country, this year's running of the Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity and Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship were spared. The much needed break in winter weather brought renewed vigor and provided one of the first opportunities for many Midwestern field trialers to get out and run their dogs!

The MWSD Futurity has been successful due to the great team of board members that help run the trial and their willingness to do whatever necessary to make this trial a huge success. The Futurity's format is an endurance stake with a 30 minute qualifying series and a 1 hour call back to win. The integrity of this stake and the type of dog that takes to win it, sets it apart from many of the country's other shooting dog derby stakes. The MWSD Board of Directors wishes to maintain its format and holds this field trial in high regard as one of the countries premiere shooting dog derby stakes. This type of venue requires a good team and extra work to create a successful event. A team of Board Members, led by senior official Jerry Hailey, of Vagas Mathiesen, Jason Kemna, Kendall Schmidt, Gailen Cooper, Luke Topp, Dave Merritt and Stan Wint pitched in and worked extremely hard throughout the weekend. Vagas Mathiesen did an outstanding job keeping the daily running's posted on the MWSD Futurity Facebook page. If you haven't seen the page, please check it out. Stan Wint went above and beyond the call of duty by donating the drinks and hors d'oeuvres for the Saturday evening cocktail hour. We really appreciate Stan's commitment and sacrifices to this program! Also it should be noted that Kendall donated the use of his Polaris Ranger for bird planting and it was greatly appreciated. Finally, old friends, Darren and Jarrett Kindle from Pittsfield, IL arrived on Saturday to also pitch in where needed. It was nice to see them and hope they return again next year.

As I stated in last year's article and will re state again, this Futurity would not be possible without its two primary sponsors - Purina and SportDog. They have been with the MWSD Futurity throughout its re-building and continue to be a lifeblood for sponsorship each year. Purina donated 18 bags of Pro-plan to be distributed to the call back dogs and winners. That is huge!! I would like to personally thank Gailen Cooper for making it possible to have the Pro Plan delivered and accessible for the winners. The MWSD Board wishes to thank Purina for their continued support. SportDog representative Jim Morehouse was once again on hand for a portion of the event to represent and answer questions about SportDog products. He provided 1825 E-collars and No-Bark 10R collars for the winners and provided great camaraderie to all in attendance. We thank Jim for his continued support and attendance and look forward to seeing him next season. Active MWSD Futurity supporter, Mitch Solt, volunteered to provide the winning dog owner a hand painted turkey feather portrait from Trophy Bone Artistry of Central City, NE. I look forward to seeing the completion of the art work and displaying it at next year's trial. Mustang Metals provided the fantastic metal signs for this year's winning owners and handlers and Borntreger Leather Company provided the gun scabbards and roading harnesses that were both given to

the winners and callback dogs. The MWSD Futurity Board wishes to thank all of sponsors and donors for their continued support and gratitude.

This year's Futurity Supper was provided by Bill Sand's, the owner of last year's winning dog, In Swami's Shadow. Michelle and Clifford Weaver did an excellent job preparing this meal and Shawn Kinkelaar was on hand to represent Bill and last year's winner. We want to thank Shawn and Bill for their continued support and great success at this Futurity.

The returning judge for this year's renewal was the Kendall Schmidt from Defiance, MO and he had enlisted the help of his field trial companion Hank Jansen of St. Charles, MO to judge for the weekend event. They were a pleasure to be around and their decisions were well received. They rode and maintained a consistent pace and were very attentive to all the dogs. Both of these gentlemen are large part of why the Sportsmen's Association Grounds is a huge success and a premiere field trial destination. They both donate a lot of their personal time and monies to make the grounds what it is today. They are great judges and true gentlemen!!!

The Winners.....

Being no stranger to the winners circle, Nemaha Boot, Pat McInteer's young derby phenom, was crowned the 28th Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity Winner for his Hall of Fame owner and handler of Falls City, NE. Boot is one of three dogs who competed in this year's Futurity out of the breeding by the famed Nemaha City Slicker and Nemaha Tinker Bell. Pat bred and raised the litter, selectively placing puppies in the hands of competitive field trailers who would successfully campaign them. Boot is a stout built white and orange male that exhibits extreme style on point, goes through the country with purpose and animation and is very biddable. His application throughout the stake was advanced and his willingness to work with Pat demonstrated why this pair had such a successful season. The young male handled his game accordingly and demonstrated he had all of the makings to become a future champion and breed on sire.

Nemaha Boot, ran in the 4th brace of the 30 minute qualifying series with Shawn Kinkelaar's U.S. Futurity winning derby Sinbad Bear. Although no birds were pointed in this brace, the judges deemed this the best paired brace of the 30 minute qualifying series. The pair broke away at the Twin Barns and showed nicely by the Blue House. Initially Bear was stronger but as the brace progressed Boot tore it up. The pair hunted accordingly, handled well and was extremely classy on the ground. Both finished well to the front at time and showed plenty of gas left in the tank.

In Brace 2, of the 1 hour Callback series, Boot was paired with Drew Zink's young derby female Spectre on the Horizon for owners Kevin and Patty Neeley. The pair was away at Lil' Vine and was strong towards Sycamore Bottom. Point was called for Boot in Sycamore Bottom at: 15. Boot showed good style as birds were flushed and all was in order for the mannerly dog. Away again and above Andy's both dogs hunted well showing consistency and forwardness. At: 30 point was called near the Blue House with Boot pointing and Horizon backing. A nice pair of birds were produced and all was in order for the bird work. From there, the pair showed well and stayed on the front end. They were forward through the Bull Pasture and into Klimers, showing big in the Corral Bottom as they were picked up going away in the Clubhouse Valley. A very commendable and exciting performance by both dogs!

Nemaha Scoot, owned by Steve Auxier of Lincoln, NE and aptly handled by Pat McInteer garnered the 2nd place laurels. Initially Steve was scheduled to attend the Futurity but work commitments required his services and he graciously let his mentor take the reins to handle Scoot to victory. This well-built white and orange pointer is also no stranger to the winners circle. Steve had a tremendous season with Scoot and has done a great job developing this young competitor. As with his littermate, Scoot is very similar in application, style, biddability, animation and purpose. He demonstrated his training well and showed that he has that willingness to work with whoever is in the saddle commanding the charge. His efforts were strong and determined with his range very suitable. He is an exciting young dog to watch and also has great potential to improve the future of the breed.

Nemaha Scoot was in Brace 6 of the Initial series paired with Skydancer Fire Proof. Proof was lost early allowing Scoot the benefits of having the course to himself. At: 9, Scoot was found standing along the right edge. His style and manners picturesque and mature for the bird work. From there and across the road on the 3rd hour course he showed nicely, grabbing the front end, and going away at pick up by the 2nd hour creek crossing.

In the 1 hour finals, the youngster was paired with Sinbad Bear. Scoot maintained a consistent front end but was not extreme or ever out of pocket. He was thorough throughout the hour and showy on the back side of Course 3. His efforts were rewarded with another nice piece of bird work at: 59. His grittiness and determination solidified that 2nd place spot in the winner's circle.

The third place dog was none other than Shawn Kinkelaar's electrifying derby, Sinbad Bear for owner John Roswech of Chester, New Jersey. Bear, a strapping young white and liver pointer, also showed toughness and determination throughout his 2 days of running. He is out of a litter by Elhew Sinbad and Shotgun Kitty Hawk. His applications were very strong although never losing contact with his handler. His approach throughout the 2 days was intelligent and animated. The judges commented on the dog's tremendous classiness and how biddable he was.

As mentioned previously, Bear was braced with Nemaha Boot in the initial series. For 30 minutes, this young derby stayed on the front end and hunted well. He was unable to find birds but it wasn't for lack of effort as he hunted all the likely haunts and applied himself to the course ahead.

In the final's, Bear's effort was again strong and forward. Braced with Nemaha Scoot, he ran well throughout the hour. He had a bit of bad luck as Bear was found standing at the end of Hell Hill. As Shawn rode to the dog, he called flight of the birds with the neighbors free range donkey looking on. As Shawn drew near, the Donkey decided to take off running right through the middle of the stance and hee-hawing as he did it. In 16 years of field trialing, I have never quite seen anything like it and by the look on the dog's face neither had he! With that being said, Bear went on to finish admirably going away strongly from the Course #1 breakaway.

Wild Covey Aftermath earned 4th place honors for owner and handler Tony King of Thompson, MO. Aftermath was whelped and raised at Wild Covey Kennels from a litter that Bill Coddington bred. This litter was by Wiggins River Wild and Bill's great producing female Henson's Snow White. Aftermath, a stout built, primarily white dog with orange ear ticking put down two solid efforts finding game both days to acquire his spot in the winner's circle.

Wild Covey Aftermath was braced with Spectre on the Horizon in Brace 3 of the Qualifying Series. Breaking away at Lil' Vine Loop, Aftermath was found standing atop the hill along right edge. His bird work showed some immaturity but he had them nicely located and was acceptable for flush and shot. From there he was strong through Sycamore and ran his edges nicely to finish going away at the 30 minute mark.

In the hour call backs, Aftermath was braced with Zorra for owner Ron Prewitt and Shawn Kinkelaar. Zorra was strong through the 1st and 2nd creek crossings but was eventually lost allowing Aftermath the course to himself. He was nice on his edges, classy, well-mannered and maintained a class shooting dog race. He did show some immaturity as he had brief contact with a feeding pair of birds in Davis bottom. He finished strong to the front, hunting the entire time and maintained biddable application throughout his hour solidifying the judge's decision.

Other that Impressed....

With 20 of the countries nicest derbies attending this stake, it would be hard not to mention other dogs that put down tremendous efforts. Both Zorra and Spectre on The Horizon put down 30 minute qualifiers that earned each of them spots in the call back series. Zorra was lost in the Finals but Horizon's performance in the 1 hour series was strong and very deserving of earning a placement. Also the two Stand by Dogs - Erin's Moonshiner owned by Chris Gebhardt and handled by Tony King and Topp's Easy Going Gus owned by Luke and Zeke Topp and handled by Luke put down very nice 30 minute performances that could have very easily earned spots in a Call back series. Both of these dogs showed great potential, application and hunting ability. All four of the above mentioned young dogs will be ones to watch in the future and could be considered for breeding purposes.

The Qualifying Series.....

Brace 1: Honky Tonk Head Rush owned and handled by Stan Wint handled well, was very biddable but needed a bit more reach. Topp's Easy Going Gus hunted well and impressed after the 1st creek crossing. As the brace continued Gus really got going and finished well in Davis Bottom. Although he had no bird contacts his strong forward race and application earned him a spot as a standby dog.

Brace2: Dawson's High Chaparral for owner Dawson Wagoner and handled by Gailen Cooper broke away at the Horseshoe Loop with Erin's Moonshiner for owner Chris Gebhardt and handler Tony King. Chaparral worked hard and hunted well. Moonshiner was strong throughout his 30 minutes. He showed biddability and stayed on the edges as he rolled through Davis Bottom towards Horse Killer Hill finishing nicely in Lil' Vine Loop. Moonshiner's performance was bold and earned him a spot as a standby dog.

Brace's 3 and 4 were previously reported in the Winners section.

Brace 5 had Warjam's Black Bart for owner and handler Jim Corpening with Honky Tonk Redneck – Stan Wint. This pair broke away and was not seen again during the brace. This was Jim's first time attending the MWSD Futurity and we hope his misfortune doesn't distract him from returning with another very nice derby prospect. It was nice having both Josh Palmer and Jim attend the trial.

Brace 6: Previously reported.

Brace 7: Erin's Hard Times for owner John Roswech and handler Kinkelaar was away at the Course 1 breakaway with Tangled Sheets for owners Johnny and Rita Ornsby. This pair had their running shoes on and was lost at the 15 minute mark.

Brace 8: Sound Investment for owner Robert Tennant and handler Travis Gelhaus broke away with Zorra at the start of Davis Bottom. This pair started well and was grabbing the countryside enjoyably. Investment was eventually lost not making the turn towards Horse Killer. Zorra for owner Ron Prewitt went on to put down a very nice 30 minutes. She was classy, stayed on the edges, handled well and finished strong. Her performance earned her a spot in the callbacks.

Brace 9: Started at the Dry pond on top of Apple Tree Hill with Skyline's Hale Storm for Dr. Jeff Hale and handler Buzzy Daugherty with Nemaha Care Free for owner and handler Kirk Swanson. Care Free is a littermate sister to Nemaha Boot and Nemaha Scoot. This pair went to hunting well with Carefree a bit stronger throughout. Hale Storm was well mannered and classy. Carefree was good on her edges and did a nice job overall. Both of these young dogs were also considered.

Brace 10: Paired She's A Little Wild Agin for owner's Scott and Noah Turner and handler Shawn Kinkelaar with Chuck Stretz's White Knight's Prophecy. This pair was strong and forward from the breakaway. Prophecy was eventually lost and Agin was not pleasing Shawn so he elected to pick her up.

In Conclusion

The Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity would like to thank all of the breeder's, owners and handlers that continually support this program. Each year the Futurity's success is based on a new crop of young derby prospects. Without the continued support of breeders' nominating litters and owners putting their derby prospects in the capable hands of pro trainers or amateur owners running their own dogs this unique endurance stake would not succeed. The MWSD Futurity Board of Directors would like to thank each and everyone involved in raising litters, developing puppies and bringing capable derbies to this event. Over the last 3 years, this program has maintained a steady course and the future looks bright. Hopefully wild bird populations throughout the United States and more specifically in Texas and Oklahoma will rebound and the interest in breeding and raising birddogs increase. If so, there will be more litters to nominate, more puppies to evaluate and the increased opportunity to get a good derby to run!