



The 29th Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity

By: Tony King

Once again the Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity provided a fun entertaining event for everyone in attendance. The Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity team of Jason Kemna, Jerry Hailey, Drew Zink and and George Newcomb stepped up to create a wonderful and successful stake. This year's event was not only highlighted by great dog performances but also maintained the jovial camaraderie that everyone looks forward to each spring!

Sticking with tradition, there was a Saturday evening Futurity Supper that featured the wonderful delicacies of pork tenderloin, side dishes, and desserts with all the fixins' prepared by local favorite Michelle Weaver. We are so lucky to have Michelle and her family back for this renewal and hope that she continues to help us with the social events. Also, Kendall Schmidt and Hank Jansen stepped in and prepared fish on Sunday evening as handlers relaxed and swapped stories before the next day's start of the Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship.

The Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity would not be possible without its two primary sponsors. Purina and SportDog have been with the program since its rebirth and continue to be a mainstay for supporting and promoting the Futurity program. As with so many trials, Purina provided dog food for the winners along with samples of dog food and hats for anyone in attendance. Also SportDog stepped up in a big way by providing two E Collars for the 1st and 2nd place winners. One cannot express the gratitude we have for these gracious sponsors. The Midwestern States Futurity Board would like to thank them for their continued support and stalwart presence in the field trial world. Another custom the Futurity Board believes in is giving back to its owners, breeders and handlers. In addition to the monetary payout for the winning handlers, each the winning owner and handler receives custom engraved metal signs from Mustang Metals unique to the MWSD trial. Finally the 1st and 2nd place winning handlers receive custom leather scabbards. The remaining winners receive leather tack and pistol holsters from Borntreger Leather Company of Clark, MO.

The judges for this year's renewal are no strangers to the Futurity process. Kendall Schmidt from Defiance, MO and Hank Jansen from St. Charles, MO returned for the second year in a row to judge the stake. Quite frankly, they get it! They understand that the goal of judging Futurity derbies is to judge potential. They are honest, fair and decisive. As many of you know, Kendall and Hank are very dedicated to the sport of field trialing. Kendall and Hank work in tandem to host the Southwest Missouri Shooting Dog Championship, help with the Missouri Open All-Age events and are integral to the activities that occur at the Sportman's Association Grounds. Kendall and Hank also team up to run dogs and compete in both Amateur and Open stakes. They are wonderful to be around and are always willing to help. The Futurity Board can't thank them enough for their years of dedication and help in hosting the Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity. Personally I cannot say enough about how important these two gentlemen are to field trialing.

For the fourth year in row, the annual renewal of the Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity was ran as a precursor derby stake to the Missouri Open Shooting Dog Championship. Even though the previous years' running's had a

progressive entries; this year's litter nominations and entries had declined. A condensed, but talented field of 10 pointers, 2 setters and 1 vizsla were drawn for this year's running of the 29th Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity. The Futurity format makes this event a challenging venue! As by original design, the format of a ½ hour qualifier and a 1 hour callback was created as a shooting dog derby stake that focuses on showcasing young dogs that potentially could be the future for the sport of field trialing and breed improvement. This trial gives breeders, judges, handlers and participants the opportunity to evaluate young dogs during the peak of the derby development stage. One can evaluate such aspects as biddability, nose, trainability, style, stamina, presence around game and competitiveness at this trial. It is quite interesting to see the changes from the qualifier series to the one hour call backs. Endurance futurities are unique in the fact that this format is conducive to giving breeder, the owner and handler an opportunity to see if their respective programs are working.

Judges Schmidt and Jansen named Wild Covey Shockwave for owner and handler Tony King of Thompson, MO the 1st place winner of the 29th Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity. Shockwave or "Nash" was whelped on January 1, 2014 from a litter whelped by Mitch Solt of Central City, NE out of Wiggins River Wild and Reba's Red Patch. Mitch can be credited with Nash's early socialization and growth. Nash later was placed in the hands of Dan Battistella and registered under the name of Lemoncello. Dan provided of much of Nash's early development and thence teamed up with Travis Gelhaus to give him a start on the competitive circuit. Tony purchased Nash at the beginning of his derby season after seeing him at the Southwest Missouri Shooting Dog Championship.

This strongly built, leggy, orange and white pointer ran in Brace 3 of the qualifier series with Washita River Newt for handler George Newcomb. This brace provided quite a thrill as both competitors put down a strong forward race and solid application over portions of Course #2 earning them both spots in the call back series.

In the 1 hour call back series, Shockwave was braced with Jetson Rise for handler Virgil Moore and owner Bev Markey who was riding to support her handsome setter. This tandem was braced on Course #1 on Sunday morning and put on a show for all in attendance. From the breakaway it was apparent this duo had bird finding on their minds. Shortly after the dogs were turned loose, Nash disappeared down the right edge and crossed the creek near the gravel pile only to be found standing on the back side of Course #3 for a true limb find. All was in order for flush and shot as a tight sitting single was produced. From there Nash and Rise rimmed the field edges with strength but applying themselves nicely. As the pair crossed into Davis Bottoms they grabbed the right edge with youthful exuberance and maintained it the entire length. Point was called at the far end and a long ride ensued. As the handlers arrived, Jetson Rise was found standing with Nash showing a mannerly back. Birds were produced and all was in order. Away and through the Island Field, both dogs were forward and still strong. Shortly after, point was called for Shockwave in the chute along the right edge before Horse Killer Hill. A nice piece of bird work was demonstrated. Up Horse Killer Hill, across Apple Tree Hill and into Lil' Vine Loop both dogs were forward and applying themselves nicely. With time to spare, all that was needed was a strong finish. Both handlers directed their charge uphill at the start of the 2nd Hour Breakaway. At: 57, Rise disappeared and was not returned within time. This was really a shame as this young setter put down a tremendous performance! Shockwave on the other hand, finished strong and still reaching, rimming the corn field far to the front as time was called. A fitting ending to an exciting hour.

This year's second place dog, Ramblin River's Rollin Stone, is from the talented string of Vizsla's that pro trainer Brian Gingrich brought to run in the Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity and Missouri Shooting Dog Championship. Stone, a handsome rust colored Vizsla male, was from a litter whelped January 10, 2014 by the multi Champion Kick Em Up Bullett and Ramblin Rivers Crimson Rayne raised by William Stapleton of Franksville, WI. Stone an athletically built, snappy competitor ran in Brace 6 of the qualifier series against the previously mentioned Jetson Rise. His race

throughout the 30 minutes was well applied and thorough. He demonstrated a solid connection with handler Gingrich and showing determination throughout to earn his spot in the callback series.

Brace 2 of the call back series featured the 2nd and 3rd place dogs. Stone, for Gingrich was braced with Washita River Newt for pro handler George Newcomb and owner Jon Jacoby. Both dogs were away, at the bottom of hill below Lil Vine Loop towards Sycamore Bottom. Their charge was well applied and forward through the bottoms and up hill above Andy's. Stone scored first on the left edge at the end of a draw. His stand was stylish and his birds were located accordingly. All was in order for flush and shot for the mannerly Vizsla. From there Stone utilized the left edge more thoroughly as Newt was big on the right. Through the gate and across the pasture both dogs canvassed the Twin Barns pasture. Entering the Bull Pasture, point was called for Newt along the far left edge fenceline in a known covey location. It was evident that the local covey had left as the relocation proved unsuccessful. Shortly after, Stone scored again pinning a tight sitting pair in the small fenceline. Once again, Stone demonstrated exactness and style for this piece of work. Through the Bull Pasture and into Klimer's the dogs applied themselves well. Both competitors finished their hours in good fashion with plenty left in the tank.

This was a strong win for Stone and Gingrich! The Futurity team would like to thank Brian for going out on limb and entering a stake that has been traditionally dominated by pointers and setters. Brian has a solid string of Vizslas and works hard at it. It is great to see a continental breed compete in the MWSD Futurity and we look forward to seeing more in the future. Congratulations to Stone, Brian and Mr. Stapleton and thanks for supporting the MWSD Futurity.

Washita River Newt, a white liver and ticked pointer male was whelped January 3, 2014 from a litter sired by the Shooting Dog champion Salty Dog Playmaker and Sunbury Zoiee bred by Jerry Dyson of Pampa, TX placed 3rd. Newt has several derby wins prior to and after the Futurity, being handled by both George Newcomb or his buddy Matt Cochran. Matt raised Newt and can be credited for his early development. This team of neighbors has worked hard training together putting Newt on the wild birds in Oklahoma and Texas in order he have a great start to his derby campaign. Newt is really a nice young dog that has a tremendous future. He was previously reported.

Remy's All In, a pointer male, handled by Stacy Perkins for Gordon and Karen Ramey of Bridgeville, DE earned 4th place honors. This white and liver derby is by a litter whelped on January 31, 2014 by the National Champion Whippoorwill Wild Agin and Butler's Jill. He is one of two derbies from that litter that competed in this year's futurity. His brother World Class Cash performed well enough to be placed on standby. Remy's All In ran in the second brace of the qualifier series with Hustler's Slim Image for Virgil Moore. All In put down a strong performance over portions of Course #1 and #2. He was forward, well applied and constant throughout the initial series.

In the call back series, Remys All In was down with Salthawk for Zink. Both dogs hunted nicely showing mature applications. They were strong by the Clubhouse and towards the Twin Barns above Andys. This duo had their running shoes as the pair canvassed backside of the third hour, crossing the creek and heading onto Course #1. They finished strong across the road into Davis Bottom with point being called for All In at time. He showed style and intensity pointing in a known covey location. He also showed poise and maturity as Salthawk was in the area too. The relocation proved unsuccessful but All In and Perkins put down a very solid hour.

The Midwestern States Shooting Dog Futurity would like to thank all of the breeder's, owners and handlers for their continued support of this program. Each year the Futurity's success is based on a new crop of young derby prospects and the talented men and women behind their development. Without this commitment this unique endurance stake would not succeed. The MWSD Futurity Board of Directors would like to thank each and everyone involved in breeding litters, starting puppies and bringing capable derbies to this event. Over the last 4 years, this program has maintained a steady course and the future looks bright.