

Region 2 Amateur Walking Shootingdog Championship

By R.J. Ecker Jr.

The historic English Setter Club of American grounds were the venue that the Garden State Field Trial Club chose to run the region two walking championship on. It was a great choice! The grounds were in every way suitable for a first class championship event. Long cedar hedge rows, brushy creek hollows, oak woodlots made up a course that logically rolled to the front. It was obvious that to show a dog here, he'd need to run. He'd be easy to see on game too, so manners and style pointing and backing would be at a premium. The birds were truly amazing. It was a pleasure to see the handlers time and time again, walk out in front of the dogs and have birds blow out of the cover and fly a hundred yards across a bean field. They were stocked in very birdy objectives, and a dog had to be hunting and going to the right places to find birds. No birds on the horse path at this trial! Stepping up to run this event was a duo of trial enthusiasts. John Bahr from New Jersey and Carl Bergen from Pa took on the task with great excitement. Carl was on hand through out the trial to tend to any and all requests. John took entries, ran the drawing, and put on a pasta feast Friday night that Molto Mario would have been proud of! They did have much help from the likes of, Troy Terlizzi, Richie Frisella, Joe Cincotta, Jack Flynn, Joe Lordi, and Larry Craig who made sure I had my coffee every morning. Thanks Larry. Judging with me was New Jersey's top pro Norm Basilone. Norm works these grounds and knows how the course should be handled. It was a

pleasure watching dogs with such a knowledgeable birddog man. I learned a lot. Thanks Norm.

Well on to the winners and the dogs that impressed the judicial panel. In the eleventh brace we were still looking for a dog or dogs to put everything together with a knock out performance. We would get it in the hour that followed. Carl bishop came to the line with Harry Rollinson's pointer male Sport. Actually his registered name is Kiski River Sport and he was just coming off a runner up win at the region three horseback championship a few weeks prior to this trial. Carl and Harry have recently become a formidable team of sorts. Harry has been battling with cancer and his health has severely limited his ability to run dogs. Carl has stepped in to help out with the running of his young dog. It is obvious that Carl has bonded well with Sport, as they were really insync the entire hour. Braced with Sport was Jack Flynn and his little red setter female named Edie, registered name Speedy Edie O'Flain. Edie turned out to be the perfect compliment to sport as the two birddogs traded finds and backed each other and racked up a total of ten quail finds between them. When the dust settled, and after much deliberation, sport was named as a worthy champion. This was his first and for Harry it was a greater thrill since he was able to ride in one of Richie Frissela's golf carts and see his young dog in action. For Carl it was the second year in a row he has taken home the beautiful region two trophy. Last year winning the title with Waybetter Spec. Edie was named runner up and for Jack he has hit the jackpot with her. She had just won the AKC Irish Setter national championship and is quickly becoming a threat wherever and against whoever she is turned loose. Close on Edie's heel and drawing much consideration was Dick Straub's fancy little dog, Awsum Speed Queen. She did a heck of a job on the first day and was

carried for some time. Three dogs which finished clean and on another day could have been used were: Sunkhaze Fastbreak(Fleweling/Stolgitis), Porter Meadow Mack(Bush), and Vanedistine's Brutus(Vanedistine/Terlizzi)

The Running

Sunkhaze Fastbreak with Stolgitis did an outstanding job on his birds. He started with a nice limb find off to the right of the breakaway field and from there went on to rack up six more finds. All handled correctly and with confidence. His bird sense was evident. His style and speed were also first rate. He lacked only in range and application on this day. Blue Bell Sue Z , with Manousinis was up after failing to back. Fores Blue Angel with Fox was up under a bird. Awsun's Speed Queen with Straub was fast and extremely snappy. Her first find was one which she roaded in on a bird and pointed in the hedgerow. This was repeated on her second find out in the open. Her style on point and running was top notch. She had good range and covered the course in a forward pattern. At the 35 minute turn in the back of the course where the powerline and the road cross, she had been last seen on the right, far ahead. A scout was sent out and point was called 40 yards in the woods. This was a nice dug up find. She finished good and was in the top spot at the end of the day. Grouseridge Jerry with Flanagan went birdless. Waybetter Buck with Terlizzi was up for failing to back. Chasehill Little Bud with Stolgitis was up for moving on a bird. Poison Ivy with Wilkenson was up for failing to back. Missy O'Flain with Flynn was up with two non productives. On Fire, with Craig was up under a bird. Stokely's Yankee Boy with Skut was up not pleasing his handler. Sunkhaze Maggie Mae with Stolgitis was up under a bird. Grouseridge Spencer with Flanagan was up with two non productives. Waybetter Spec with Bishop was lost at the 30 minute mark. Harry

O'Flain with Flynn was up under a bird. Peacedale Duke with Peters finished his hour with birdwork but was not up to the standard of the day. No Justice with Marino was up for leaving point. Awsun Speed with D'Donato was up under a bird. Springhouse Nellie with Bahr went birdless. Grousewing Jam with Terlizzi went birdless. Kiski River Sport with Bishop started with a nice find on the first hedgerow. Sent on he fired out to the center island for another find. Across the next field he showed his range by staying on the edge all the way around to the gap. Onto the next field he showed out front again. At the next gap, while his bracemate was on point to the right, Sport had a good find on the left edge. He was positive on all his finds. It took little effort to flush his birds. He was calm before and after the flight. At the 30 minute mark, out across the powerlines he gobbled up the country. He had one cast that carried him into the woods on the right causing Carl to get on him, but he returned to the course quickly. Sent on he continued his forward, edge hugging race which led him to four more well executed finds for a total of seven. The one chance he had to back his bracemate he did it willingly. It was the type of performance that instantly elevated the stake. When he was called in at time and picked up, we knew we had something we could hang our hats on. Speedy Edie O'Flain with Flynn was braced with the winner. Edie started and finished at the same pace. That pace was hard. She gave it her all. At the beginning of the brace she was asked to back her bracemate twice. She did it sharply and with good intensity. She had her first find at the second gap while her bracemate was pointing farther up the edge. She exhibited great intensity on this find with solid composure. Her race was not as extreme as the winners. But non the less she hunted at a good range and managed to dig up two more finds and another back to edge out the other contenders for the runner up spot. Powell's Sarah with

Powell was up under a bird. Mack with Fazenbaker finished with three finds but did not have the stylish race we were looking for. Sweet Pea with Marino finished with four finds. She had very nice pointing and backing style. She had some very nice casts too. She tended to lose her focus at times and this detracted from her effort. Keystone's Red Ryder with Peters finished with six finds and two backs. She was one of the fastest and snappiest dogs we saw. She started on the short side, but ranged out to the limits by the end of the hour. Some ticking on her birds cost her consideration. Mattie with Fazenbaker finished with two finds. She was one of the classier red setters we saw, but her race and style on birds was not up to this level. Porter Meadow Mack with Bush finished with five finds. He was very impressive on his game and in his application. He started with one sloppy find and an unproductive, but gathered himself and banged out 4 super finds and a quality race that made us think about him. He's young and will be a future threat for sure. Vanedistine's Brutus with Terlizzi finished with three finds and two backs. He ran as big and as hard as any dog in the stake. He covered a lot of the course missed by other dogs and his second find ranked up there with any we had seen. He had a let down during the flush on his first find that cost him a shot at the title. Cadillac Jack with Bergen finished with four finds and a back. He had nice composure on all his birds. He hunted at a moderate range and pace.

