

National Red Setter Futurity

Scarlet Fever Wins Twelfth Renwal

By BONNIE J. SPENCER

SCARLET FEVER, impressive young female, was the winner of the Twelfth National Red Setter Futurity held on March 24 at the Rend Lake Area Near Mt. Vernon, Ill. Dr. Roger Boser is the owner and handled his young starlet from Seven Valleys, Pa.

Dr. Roger Boser acquired Scarlet from Beauchamp last year and began a very successful development program. The finished Derby has many all-breed Derby placements to its credit and a predictable future as a shooting dog.

Devil Fire (Boser)—Deacon's Dazzler (Hamilton).—Marvin Hamilton handled Dazzler for owner Jason Smith; Devil Fire was under the good guidance of Roger Boser. Dogs immediately set a fast pace beginning back at course #1. Devil Fire quickly went to the front fields while Dazzler chose a wide right of the treeline. As the handlers crossed the first treeline, Devil Fire showed to the front. Dazzle hunted hard off to one side and returned to the front after 15. Boser demonstrated his handling skills by helping his dog on the edges. The teamwork effort was impressive. Perhaps a find by Devil Fire would have given the judges more to think about.

Ring Dang Do (Hamilton)—Rican's Caprock Duster (Gross).—Popular professional Clair Gross put Duster through the paces for owner Richard Scurlock. Hamilton had the reins in hand for Ringo. The mud had a drastic effect on both dogs. Perhaps the dogs were smarter than the people as the mud became deeper and rain began to fall in a light mist. Neither handler lost enthusiasm until near the end of the brace.

Scarlet Fever (Boser)—Abe's Cruise Control (Spencer).—The gallery grew as attention was given to this brace. At the breakaway both dogs grabbed the first edges in sight and showed far to the front. At times Skip would be several fields over so the orange vest on her appeared to be a fading dot going over the horizon. Scarlet Fever showed maturity and kept stretching futher along natural objectives and always to the front. Boser's efforts with this fine dog would be appropriately rewarded. Bird contact was first made at 20. Spencer rode hard to the front as Skip was standing at a distant corner of a treeline horizontal to the course. Scarlet Fever was taking that line from right to left and followed the action. A pheasant left as handlers rode up. Scarlet Fever went with the bird while Spencer whoad Skip and fired. At 23 Fever had a pheasant find showing excellent manners while Skip chased another pheasant off course. When time was called both dogs were driving far to the front in the next field. There was no doubt that both dogs would be used.

Rawhide (Beauchamp)—My My (Watkins).—All-age prospect Rawhide was handled by Beauchamp while popular Illinois physician, Robert C. Watkins, Jr., handled his young entry. Neither dog got off to a good start. Both handlers realized what they had to beat but today was not going to be their day.

At the conclusion of the stake the judges used the opportunity to observe the dogs' manners on their game by calling back the top dogs. Scarlet Fever proved more than proper manners on course and was declared the winner. Abe's Cruise Control, Pine Hollow Foxfire and Celtic's Injunction were called back for a second series.

Quail were placed in a treeline next to field. The gallery stood anxiously waiting at one end. Three handlers representing three different regions of the United States (Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Kansas) sat patiently on their horses farther down the line as the course was prepared. Despite the cold, the rain, the fatigue and the fact that the placements could change on this last series, the handlers appeared confident. Roger Boser, proving himself a gentleman, joined them to lend moral support. It appeared the four of them were discussing strategy.