

Prairie Wind

German Shorthaired Pointers

2004 FUTURITY REFLECTIONS

by Keith Richardson

The 2004 Futurity was one of the high points of our lives. Penny placed first, and Zach placed third. Two dogs Bobbi and I own and bred.

The chain of events that made this possible began with Cathy Black who talked us into our first field trial prospect, Jessie. When Jessie won first in her first puppy stake, we were hooked.

During the next year I ran Jessie in several trials, winning her derby points and getting hooked deeper by the sport. I realized I was entering the sport late in my life, and knew I had to "jump start" my learning curve. I began looking for a pro who could teach me and my dogs, and settled on Eldon Hongo. I dropped off Jessie at Eldon's winter camp in December, 2002.

During that visit, Eldon mentioned that Blues was for sale. Cathy Black had bred Blues and had spoken highly of her to us. Eldon told me Blues would teach me more about field trialing than any human including him (this proved to be true). I called Bobbi that evening and she said: "buy her!"

Bobbi had been a winning Lhasa Apso breeder, and had proven the merits of line breeding. We wanted to stay in the Rockin' Rollin' Billy line (Blues' sire), so we chose a young all-age male, Spekk, owned by Bill Rowecamp.

We bred Blues in March 2003, and were blessed with a robust litter of ten. We saw very early that these pups had exceptional intelligence, natural bird-finding skills, and good range. We kept three pups ensuring most of the others went to field trial homes. Eldon began training our three last May, with three other littermates joining them in summer camp.

I visited Eldon and was amazed, I could not believe the progress I saw in only three weeks. I witnessed Penny and Zach making all-age moves, handling for Eldon, and holding point on limb finds. The rest of the "Blues' Crew" were also thrilling to watch, and extremely talented.



Prairie Winds Zackly Right "Zack" 7 Weeks



Prairie Winds Comeuppance "Penny" 5 Months



Penny winning the NGSPA "Region 8" 2004 (a half brother)

After summer camp came trials in the White Mountains. The Blues' Crew ran great but went birdless. Then came the Region 8 Championship, where they swept the Derby. Penny took first, Bess second, Zach third, and Griz hon. mention. The Hun Classic followed with Zach taking first, Ace taking second, and Penny placing third.

Bobbi and I went to the Futurity with high hopes, knowing what the Blues' Crew could do, but also knowing that winning the Futurity would require a phenomenal performance with nothing going wrong.

The judges announced that they were looking for a polished all-age performance. Penny's run was consistently all-age, she went with Eldon, and finished the brace with a near-broke find way to the front. I scouted her, and was so proud my heart soared. I also scouted Zach, who had a terrific run, but I knew his sister beat him.



Penny winning 1st in the GSPCA National Futurity 2004

Bobbi and I waited for the placements with hearts pounding. We knew that it was very rare for littermates to place; although three other Rockin' Rollin' Billy kids had done it: Jane, Slick Willy, and Sport. We were elated when the placements were read, and we won first and third.

We owe so much to others: Cathy Black, Bill and Jo Rowecamp, and of course Eldon Hongo. We owe a special thanks to the judges: Dave Hill and Joe Amatulli. Lastly Bob Deitering's talent for breeding is unsurpassed.

But most of all we thank Blues for the gift of this wonderful litter. She has undergone cancer surgery and will have no more pups, but the Blues' Crew will carry her torch into the next generation.



Zack winning the NGSPA "HUN" Classic 2004



Zack winning 3rd in the GSPCA National Futurity 2004



Prairie Winds Zackly Right "Zack"

NGSPA Quail Championship in TX: Open Derby:
Prairie Wind's Zackly Right "Zack" First
Prairie Wind's Comeuppance "Penny" Third...

We continue to be very pleased with the litter of great contenders...



Prairie Winds Comeuppance "Penny"