

National Vizsla Championship

By VERLA MORTENSEN

SALESMAN, surgeons, aircraft controller, analysts, retirees, recent graduates, dock workers, druggist, physicians and programmers. From California, Canada, New Jersey, Nebraska and everywhere in between. These people share a common interest and a desire to do what they believe is in the best interest for their breed. Pilgrims who decide to make a now annual trek. As diverse as colors in a full range spectrum and like those colors, bound by a common focal point.

This was the 1998 National Vizsla Association's Championship. They come to compete, witness, direct, assist and mostly enjoy the activities and development of their dogs.

It is sometimes said that any sporting event makes only one person truly happy. Others may share but the joy of victory belongs only to the winner. Thank the Lord for dogs that selflessly share their victory with everyone involved in their lives and continue on as if nothing great took place. Wins belong to owners, handlers and breeders.

This year the National Vizsla Association's Championship was won by three years young Rebel Rouser Sacket, owned by Gordon Long. Gordon purchased her as a puppy from the Rebel Rouser Kennels of Hank and Betty Rozanek, who have been breeding quality field performance in Vizslas for more years than Betty will admit. Gordon placed Sacket with trainer Daniel Burjan and they knew they had something special. Burjan managed to bring out the best in this young female and in 1995, at the age of eleven months, she won the National Vizsla Association's Derby Classic! Now, before her fourth birthday, she won the Championship. But Gordon's "joy of victory" went even further. Sacket was bred to Champion Fieldway's Jack Daniels and the get from that litter placed winner and runner-up in this year's Derby Classic. It was a championship event that Gordon will find hard to forget!

Sharing in this year's spotlight was the runner-up, Rebel Rouser Rosie, which was born, raised, and trained at the Red Dog Kennels of Doug Rowse. Her dam is Rebel Rouser Maggie Mae, owned by Rowse; her sire is Rebel Rouser Reck, owned by none other than Hank Rozanek. Doug felt it only fair that she carry the Rebel Rouser banner, but points out that she is his creation. A dog with a desire to please and style to burn. Doug found it ironic that a training collar was awarded as a prize. In all of her training Rosie has never required one.

It takes more than a few things to make a championship. One of the most important is judges. The NVA was blessed with and by the individuals who took to the saddle and served as the judiciary for their event. Jimmy White of Bowling Green, Ky., had previously judged some 36 titular events and a half-dozen classics and more trials than can be listed. He has bred, trained and campaigned setters and pointers for more than thirty years. His dogs include one National Amateur Shooting Dog Champion, a National Derby Champion and ten others dogs that have won various championships.

Ronnie Smith, who judged both the Championship and the Derby Classic, has been raised with and worked bird dogs all his life. He has been a professional trainer for more than fifteen years and has guided hunts throughout the United States. He also recently judged the Oil Capital Shooting Dog and All-Age as well as the Region 8 Shooting Dog Championship. Jerry Lewis, who served as a judge for the Derby Classic, is a professional trainer with more than forty years of experience. He was one of the founders of the West Coast Shooting Dog Championship and has judged trials throughout the United States and Canada. The experience, knowledge and attention these gentlemen brought to the trial were well appreciated and their decisions well received.

All of this cannot happen without the aid and sponsorship of many corporations and individuals. This year's major corporate sponsor was Purina Hi Pro. Other major corporate contributors included Tri-Tronics, D T Systems, Christie Enterprises, Tucker Saddlery, Diamond Dog Food, *Pointing Dog Journal*, and *Gun Dog Magazine*. There were also prizes from Cabelas, Happy Jack, *Dogs Unlimited*, Wildwings and *The American Field*. Donations from individuals also help to make this the class happening for the breed each year.

Again Eureka, Kan., was the site for this renewal. This location has continued to provide both great accommodations for the participants and a venue that tests the dogs with objectives that require a dog to reach out and more than enough birds to demonstrate style and handling. Those who arrived early were greeted by grounds that had been soaked for days and then covered with a thick blanket of snow. But nature and good fortune were there to meet them with the sun melting the snow and wind drying the soil. Grounds that started as nearly impossible to walk upon transformed into a

location well suited and hospitable to this annual gathering. By the time the competition was to start everything was near perfect, although the winds steadily increased as the trial progressed.

THE RUNNING

Fieldway's Second Chance (Frayne) and Lady Ginger Snap (DeMoura). At 7 Lady was found to the front alongside a hillside tree on point, Chance backing. After a hard flushing effort the handler relocated his charge and Chance was taken on by Frayne. No bird was produced. At 10 point was called for Lady and Chance came in and honored. Both dogs showed good style. Birds were produced and everything was properly handled. At 15 it was Chance's turn to locate game. As the handler and judge approached a rabbit fled and crossed in front of the dog; Lady came in and backed. Chance never let up and Frayne opted to see if Chance was locating birds or if the rabbit was in fact his interest. The effort produced birds, the situation well handled. At 18 the roles were again reversed and DeMoura produced game with all in order. Chance proved to be successful at game-finding with three well spaced additional finds scored at 23, 41 and 50. Both dogs finished with strong races.

Rebel Rouser Rosie (Rowse) and Desert Storm's Brandt (Peterson). Peterson was less than satisfied with Brandt's effort and he elected to pick up at 4. Rosie proved that she was out to go hunting and anxious to demonstrate that she was a class bird dog. At 10 she carded her first find, displaying her eye-catching style and good manners. At 13 she was again found pointing. After a long relocation birds were produced and she went on with everything in order. Doug Rowse again called point at 23 on the hillside to the left after the creek crossing, everything in order. Rosie worked the cover to the front and went on point as she came up the draw. This time when Rowse stepped in front of his charge a large bevy flew, with Rosie taking it all in and standing tall in a statuesque pose. After that find Rosie moved strongly to the front and we made the final bend back toward the finish. Rosie appeared from the front and formally delivered to Rowse's hand a piece of tail that she had garnered for him. Everything was determined to be in order and Rosie finished her course with a forward drive and no further bird contact.

Rebel Rouser Diamondback (Rozanek) and Fieldway's Nitro Flash (Frayne). "Rattler" took an instant dislike to Flash and from the start he tried to rattle his brace-mate. Frayne and Rozanek



Championship Winners. In foreground (left), Rebel Rouser Sacket with Carol Burjan, and Rebel Rouser Rosie with Larry Barnett. Standing: Daniel Burjan, Gordon Long, Judges Jim White and Ron Smith; Doug Rowse, owner of Rebel Rouser Rosie.



Derby Classic Winners. At left: The winner, Kal Cam's Red Thunderboy, with Carol Burjan, (right) the runner-up, B K's Ramblin Lucy. Standing: Daniel Burjan, Gordon Long, owner; Judges Jerry Lewis and Ron Smith, and Paula Abbott.