

## NATIONAL OPEN DERBY

The 2008 National Open Derby the final event at this year's National's got off to a cloudy and windy start with the first brace off at 8:05. The wind continued to increase during the running to upwards of 30 mph. Judges John Chockran and Will Langley had the opportunity to watch some very good performances.

Brace 1: Top Diesel –Mike Mullineaux Bottom MikeRowe-Chuck Cooper

The first brace was off at 8:05 and got the stake off to a rousing start. Both dogs moved out nicely and made booming casts right off the line. Both dogs have bird contact at 18 minutes but no point is seen for MikeRow. Diesel is given credit for a find at this point both dogs start to show signs of tiring. Diesel continues to work and is rewarded with a bird at 25 and 28.

Brace 2: Top Scratched Bottom Trick- Dianne Vater

Brace two runs as a bye dog and Trick is off to an early start with bird contact at 15 quickly followed by two more contacts in rapid succession. The number of birds may have slowed Trick up as she lacks range though she remains busy for the remainder of her brace.

Brace 3: Top Blackjack-Kevin Jahr Bottom Masie –Tim Hildago

The dogs are off at 9:10 Blackjack has contact quickly and Kevin is off and fires. Both dogs move out nicely covering lots of ground and working hard for the next 20 minutes at 21 both dogs have bird contact and establish point Handlers are off their horses and fire. This was a nice brace with Blackjack showing just a little more range and ground speed than Masie.

Brace 4: Top Go-Go-Diane Vater Bottom Luci –Steve Reynolds.

This brace is off at 9:57 after a short break for coffee and donuts. The dogs both start out moving forward and showing intelligent moves along the edges at 5 minutes in both are rewarded with bird contact point is established and both handlers fire. The dogs continue to work forward and stay busy maybe not as large as the first brace but showing nice range at 10 minutes both dogs again have bird contact establish point and show nice style in the points. Luci showing a bit more range and stamina finishes up the brace moving away.

Brace 5: Top Gandolf-Gorden Hansen Bottom Roxie B-Mike Mullineaux

The brace breaks away at 10:48 after the Judges have an opportunity to confer. Both dogs have bird contact at 9 minutes in both handlers are off and fire. Early in the brace Gandolf is working hard for Gorden and Roxie is moving forward and handling for Mike. Roxie produces two more finds but both dogs tire as the brace moves towards its conclusion.

Brace 6: Top Abby-Mike Mullineaux Bottom Scarlett-Diane Vater

This brace was exciting from the start as Scarlett and Abby move strong to the front. Scarlett is rewarded with bird contact at 14 Diane is off the horse and fires. Scarlett continues to work the edges Abby is moving around as well but not showing the range or speed that Scarlett is. Both dogs have contact at 20 minutes and both point. The brace continues with Scarlett finishing strong continuing to work edges and finish lines Abbey appears to tire in the final five minutes.

Brace 7: Top Major-Pam Cherry Bottom Nevada-Diane Vater

This is the final brace of the day and the wind is howling as the dogs break away. Nevada has a find at 10 but is failing to show Diane that he will be able to beat the performances from the earlier braces and she chooses to pick him up at 14 followed shortly thereafter by Major who is also picked up by his handler.

#### PLACEMENTS

1<sup>ST</sup> Erbenhof Luci Lawless (Erbenhof John Wayne x Erbenhof Battenburg) B: Virnita and Melisa Mountain O: Melisa Mountain H: Steve Reynolds

2<sup>ND</sup> Cherrystone Gone with the Wind JH (NFC/NAFC/DC/AFC Snake Breaks Saga v Reiteralm MH x CH Cherrystone Perl of Sagenhaft MH) B/O: Pamela and Christian Cherry H: Diane Vater

3<sup>RD</sup> Caprock's Dirty Deal (NFC/NAFC/FC/AFC Scooby Doo's Treeline Storm x FC PecanCreek Reflection of Tia) B/O/H: Kevin and Vicki Jahr

4<sup>TH</sup> Blitzkrieg's Diesel von Reiteralm (Saga's Blitzkrieg v Reiteralm x Axel's Riverside v Reiteralm, JH) B: Virginia Alexander O: Bruce and Kathy Warwick H: Mike Mullineux

