

## **Saskatchewan Open Chicken Championship      By Brad Harter**

**When dogs come north to the prairies to compete, their performances are evaluated and impacted by five different judges. Two of these judges will ride horseback and they will be charged with making the final decision, putting it into the books so to speak. The other three evaluators will do most of the separating. Who are these other judges and why is their role so important? The answer lies in the prairies themselves. These other three evaluators are as much a part of these prairie trials as the men and women that put them on. They are also the main reasons that dog trainers travel north each and every summer to develop dogs in a place that is like no place else on earth.**



**The first of these great separators is the prairie climate; a mix of wind and temperature that challenges man and animal alike. The wind will often blow from every direction during any given eight hour period. It may show gale like force or it may gust and swirl lifting dirt, stubble and crop residue straight in the air. Rarely does the wind lay still but when it does you feel like the earth has stopped in its tracks. Temperatures may be just as erratic ranging more than 50 degrees in any one day. You may start the morning brace bundled in a jacket only to feel like you have been dropped into Death Valley by mid afternoon. Some dogs can handle these changes, on others it will take its toll and show in their performance.**

**The second great evaluator is the boundless landscape. It stretches beyond the horizon melting one prairie venue into the next. For a dog to render a true prairie race, they must have the courage to push this country to the limits They must become an aspirin tablet on the horizon and then reach for still more country in an unquenchable desire to find and point game. This country can eat a dog up and spit him out. They either look great or they look sorry, there isn't much in between.**

The last great evaluator and maybe the most important are the two challenging game birds, both of which are found in abundance. These are the Sharptail grouse, often referred to as prairie chickens, and the Hungarian Partridge. One species alone would challenge the best of dogs; together these birds have a bag of tricks that only the truly great bird dogs can handle. Sharptails may “bluff up”, which means they may go to cover during the heat of the day. Dogs that figure this out may go “bluff hunting” and when they use the wind properly, this can be real productive. But Sharptails are just as likely to be found out in the middle of alfalfa, especially if they are a late hatch and still feeding heavily on grasshoppers. Huns are much more of a mystery; they are simply just where you find them. I have noticed they seem to like old homestead sites. They often hang around farmsteads and seem to like a close association with people. If they have any real pattern, routine or specific liking, no one seems to have informed them. Both of these species of birds may sit tight to be flushed or they may take to the air the moment they feel pressured. The younger birds often flush in streams, going up one or two at a time. That can really put an extra challenge on the dogs. For dogs to handle these birds, especially at Mortlach, their brain must be programmed on hunting from the moment they are turned loose. With birds just anywhere, lounging in the shade of a giant round bale on a barren hay field or deep in the middle of a chokecherry thicket, they are a challenge beyond the imagination.

It is this unique combination, two mounted judges and three of nature’s elements, which will sort out the dogs on the prairies, leaving only those with the greatest of attributes to carry home the gold.

Exactly who the first dog trainer to come north may have been is probably lost in the pages of history. What they certainly found must have been a dog trainer’s paradise; miles of endless grassland abundant with both the greater prairie chicken and Sharptail Grouse. Today these same prairies are somewhat different, yet they still offer a paradise for dog trainers, unmatched anywhere in the world. The native grasses are all but gone and with them went the native Greater Prairie Chicken. Today those native grasses have all but been replaced by hay fields and a mix of pasture and crop land. The resulting landscape is a contrasting blend creating a mosaic pattern perfect for field trials. An introduced game bird called the Hungarian Partridge has found this mosaic pattern to his liking and today these hardy birds are plentiful, nearly equal in numbers to the Sharptail grouse. Nature’s wrath in the 30’s resulted in a drought that left the fragile soil exposed and a number of farmsteads abandoned. The winds blew a portion of this dirt into ridges that today are covered with mostly choke cherry. The locals call these ridges “bluffs” and they are a favorite hangout spot for the Sharptails during the heat of midday. To prevent future dustbowl tree lines were planted with a rugged maple species. Additional lines were formed with miles and miles of caryana shrubs creating both cover and feed thus forming perfect objectives for bird dogs. Between nature and man the prairies have been molded into bird dog heaven. These same trying times also forged the people that call these prairies their home today. Determined, self-sufficient and as rugged as the country they live in, these are the best people you will meet anywhere in the world. Immediately they make you feel at home and many have adopted dog trainers as part of their families over the years. All of this combines into the place that bird dog people refer to as Mortlach. It is home to the Saskatchewan and Dominion Championships along with a host of other amateur events that kick off the prairie fall field trial season. The land the trials are run on lies just north of a charming, small prairie town called Mortlach, which is just west of Moose Jaw, about 50 miles as a crow would fly. About 7000 acres are used for the seven one hour courses. A good portion of this land is leased from the government by eight different landowners that graciously allow these trials to be run over their holdings. Trial headquarters sit almost square in the middle of this tract on land that is owned by Les and Donna Eastmond. A modern clubhouse sits where Cov’s old house sat for many years. The rest of the ground used for the trials is owned or leased by the following families: Gordon & Marjorie Ward, Cyril Adams, Cam Cambell, Rupert Gosselin, Lyonel Herbert, Ira

**Ellingson and the Wolf Family. Only through their generosity do we have the privilege to run over these spectacular venues.**

**Championship trials of this magnitude don't just happen. It takes leadership and a crew of workers. This is what the Sask. Field Trial Association is all about. They don't boast a large membership but those members they have are all workers and each contributes in their special ways. Doug and Kay Vaughn, along with their energetic grandson Tyler Yankech, coordinates the championship stakes. Much of the daily work is delegated to their crew which runs like a well oiled combine. Whether it is marshalling, driving the dog wagon or making certain all the participants have morning coffee and muffins, these are the tasks that get done each and every day by the crew consisting of Ron & Linda Bender, Dawn Feist, Sheldon Rodgers, Stan Thompson, Brenda Ochosky, Lou Qualtiere, Jeanette Heise, Kelly McLean or Gary Meschishnick. Without them this trial just couldn't happen.**



**The judges secured for the Sask. Championship were Tom Honecker from Findley, Ohio and Larry Smith from central Iowa. It was nearly half a century ago that Tom came north to train dogs with Bill Kusner. At the young age of 12, the trip was as much about Tom's training as the dogs. His lessons were well learned. The result of this experience was a love and appreciation for the prairie all-age dog that is with Tom today. Tom's own success with bird dogs is well known. Tom has trained, developed and campaigned many a great one. One of his more recent shining stars was Cedar Oak Kate, an outstanding female that Tom piloted to the National Championship Title in 1998. Paired with Tom to judge the kick-off championship stake was Larry Smith. Larry is a long time bird hunter that in recent years broke into the field trial game. In a few short years Larry has had more success than most amateurs will have in a lifetime. Larry runs his own business in central Iowa and yet still travels tens of thousands of miles to compete with his string in championship stakes across the country. Often called the Highwayman, Larry and his wife Linda are setting modern day records for miles logged going to field trials in a single season. Last year alone they crisscrossed the country making most every major trial from California to Florida.**



Together these two men brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the task of choosing the champion and runner up in an event that would prove to be very competitive. Tom stayed on and was paired with Torben Hansen to judge the companion derby stake. Torben is well know on the western circuit competing at championship caliber events throughout that region with a fine string of dogs that he has trained himself.

In the Dominion Championship that followed the derby I had the distinct pleasure to pair with Torben to judge that event. What an honor this was. Torben possesses excellent eyesight, expert horsemanship, an objective and analytical mind and a true appreciation for a prairie performance. These are the attributes that afford this avid outdoorsman all the talents needed to render a fair and impartial decision. As I mentioned earlier, nature's elements helped us with much of the sorting; all we really had to do was record the results in the record book.

A number of owners had come north to watch their dogs compete. It is always a pleasure to meet these people. Without these owners and the scores of amateurs that run their own dogs, this sport could not exist. Present for part, or in some cases all of the running, were the following: Bob Blyth and his companion Lavina Miller watching their young derby that captured third and Twice The Man in Andy Daugherty's string. Don Stroble was also there from PA. to watch Andy run his Miller's Total Eclipse. Rick Furney had owners Bob Cook, Jim Finna, Gary Futch and Mike Furney with his son Chad all present and well mounted to watch their respective dogs. Jed Dempsey came from Florida and John Neeley and his wife were riding most every brace to watch the dogs they have with Robin and Hunter Gates. Mike Peretto was on hand to assist in everyway possible. He runs his own dogs, assists Colvin and Mazie, keeping a few dogs in their string. Mike also helps the Sask. club to make all these trials run smoothly doing anything that is needed. The winds of romance also blow on the prairies. Rick Steen came from British Columbia just to ride and marvel at the caliber of dog that can compete over these grounds. He was accompanied by a charming lady friend named Gloria. It was her first field trial and she rode every brace

thoroughly enjoying the running. It won't be her last as Rick asked her to become engaged during their stay at Mortlach. Best wishes to them both.

#### **Sask. Winner & Runner-up:**

The Sask. Championship is first prairie trial of the season. In many respects this stake has become the proving ground for all the first year all-age dogs coming out of their derby season. About half the entries in this stake were running in their first all-age championship. Age and experience would rule the day with the winner emerging in a veteran campaigner, House's Snakebite. Owned by Tom and Don Faller, Andy Daugherty campaigns this dog and what was evident from the start was that this dog knew how to handle the heat, wind and chickens that had ventured from a bluff into open, sparse cover. Never once in the hour was there any indication of a let up. The dog completed one distant prairie cast after another and he did every bit of this on his own. Heading north along the lake and just before entering the rough pasture, Snakebite swapped ends on a distant cast, pinning chickens that were out in the open near a large bluff of chokecherry, style and manners were perfection. His final minutes were strong and forward, showing no sign of fatigue although most of his hour had placed him directly into the wind. Owned by Gene Brown, Afternoon High would secure the runner-up position under the whistle of Rick Furney. His race was similar though possibly not as smooth requiring a little more effort from his scout. His finish was far to the front and carried him to a distant bluff where he was found on point, a single chicken remaining as the judge arrived. Everything was in order, a true limb find coming in the closing minutes.



#### **Brace by brace report:**

1. Rester's Copper Penny (Furney) x She's So Fine (Gates) Opening morning was cool and overcast with a gentle wind from the northeast. So Fine showed strength from her very first cast. Her third cast carried her clear out of the country and she failed to return in the time allotted putting her out of judgment. Copper Penny had a UP at the 20 minute mark shortening for a spell after that. She started to stretch

back out near the 35 minute mark. After passing choke cherry lane, Penny vanished to the left side of the course and was found on point near the top of the hill. She had a large group of chickens pointed with arresting style and perfect manners. Penny finished to the front bird hunting every jump of the way.



2. **Fancy Free (Peretto) x House's Tess (Daugherty)** Fancy pointed off the breakaway at the three minute mark. A perfect place for chickens but it was a jack rabbit instead. She chased it with vigor and was shortly picked up by her owner/handler, Mike Peretto. Tess was swinging wide and showing some excellent all-age cast. At 26 minutes Tess logged an unproductive along the old prairie road near Les Eastmonds. At 40 minutes Tess pointed out in the alfalfa field. She had a large group of chickens 20 yards in front of her. Style and manners were perfect. Tess finished her last 20 minutes making a massive prairie cast to the front and taking the tree lines to their limits.
3. **True Survivor (Davis) x Hydro's True Root (Fuzzy Smith)** True Root had a wreck with chickens early on and was picked up.. True Survivor is owned by Bill & Linda Hunt and was sent this past summer to Canada with Colvin Davis. He is a strong front running dog with an exceptional easy way of getting over the country. His race was nearly perfect and he went from bluff to bluff always in search of chickens. We rode by him in heavy cover and he was spotted by Scott Beehler. When Colvin failed to flush chickens he asked Kobe to relocate. The dog took one forward step and then jumped back. Colvin spied the porcupine and took the dog on commenting on what a great training job Bill Hunt had done to porcupine proof his young dog. Kobe finished strong and to the front putting down a beautiful all-age race.
4. **Juke Box (Peretto) x Broadway Silver Bell (Gates)** Both dogs showed speed and range from the beginning. At 30 minutes both were found pointed along a small

- dugout. To the surprise of both handlers, 4 or 5 pheasants were produced. We learned later they had been recently released a few weeks earlier by someone training on the grounds. Neither dog seemed to have these birds located accurately with Jukebox taking the liberty of a step or two. Three minutes later Bell pointed, reared back and took out a big covey of Huns. At nine years of age she showed everyone she still could knock birds with the best of any puppy. Minutes later Jukebox was involved with a bird and picked up also.
5. South's Late Night (Furney) x Clower's Thunder Strike (Hanson) Strike was a handful from the beginning and eventually was picked up. Late night was showing speed and range and was soon found pointed in alfalfa. Birds left him but were seen by the judges, all in order. Late Night made some impressive swings. He logged one unproductive but finished strong and to the front, running straight into a strong wind from the north.
  6. Bitterroot's Return (Davis) x Steel (F. Smith) Steel was lost early and when Bitterroot shortened at the 30 minute mark Colvin elected to pick him up.
  7. Law's High Noon (Furney) x Joe Texas (Gates) Joe Texas showed early strength but after logging two UPs he was put in the harness. High Noon won the National in 2001 and although he is nine years of age he has not lost his all-age range. He laid out strong to the front making one gigantic cast after another. Some of his youthful speed is gone but his application and range spoke for themselves. He finished without bird work but was seen crossing the distant horizon at pickup. High Noon showed everyone he was still an all-age performer to the core.



8. Second day: Much warmer with a slight breeze out of the west. Highnoon Drifter (Furney) x Barshoe Busy (Daugherty) Busy wasn't suiting Andy and he was picked up near the 20 minute mark. Drifter was making some big cast and showing plenty of range. Point was called far to the front but the dog got over it and when he failed to please Rick, he was also picked up early.
9. Justina (Davis) x Clower's Silver Streak (Hanson) Justina showed plenty of heels from the breakaway with her first cast taking her far to the end of the big pasture field. A long absence near the middle of her hour put her out of judgment. Streak

- handled making some strong all-age cast to birdy objectives. His application was excellent but it didn't pay off until after time when he pointed a covey of Huns.
10. Highnoon Gamble (Furney) x Rester's Strike Zone (Gates) Gamble made a few nice casts but at 40 minutes Rick elected to pick him up when failed to suit him. Robin had Strike Zone rolling to the front and making some excellent cast but he shortened and failed to reach for new country near the 50 minute mark ending his bid for the title.
  11. Keeper (Davis) x Praireland Britt (Furney) Britt left the front end early and with an extended absence he was out of judgment. Keeper ran to the extremes just showing often enough to keep him out of trouble. Point was called far to the front at 46 minutes but it proved to be an unproductive. He finished with plenty of strength showing that rising temperatures didn't affect him at all.
  12. Briarcrest (Furney) x Rester's Perfect Storm. (Gates) Briarcrest rolled clean out of the country and didn't show again within time. Storm made some impressive cast but got to close to a covey of chickens causing them to flush and he was picked up at the 53 minute mark.
  13. Tekoa Mountain Patriot (Davis) x Cherokee Rebel (Daugherty) Rebel had on his running shoes and decided Mortlach, far to the south, was were he wanted to visit. He failed to show again as the course swung to the north. Patriot settled into a nice forward pattern but didn't show the range and application he had two years earlier when he won this stake. We saw Huns in the air and when we reached the ridge, Patriot was standing proud and tall. He shortened after that find and Colvin picked him up near the half hour mark.
  14. Frontline Strike (Furney) x Miller's Total Eclipse (Daugherty) Strike struck out for parts unknown and didn't return in time. Eclipse settled into a nice forward pattern but when he crossed the wheat stubble he shortened his stride as if his feet were affected. After a big cast to the east near the lake's edge he came in showing that his front pads were nearly gone ending his hour near the 30 minute mark.



15. **Spinning Reel (Davis) x Short Skirt (Gates)** Short Skirt broke away to the south heading for the big pasture behind the club house. After a lengthy absence she came from behind and started to settle into a much better forward pattern. She pointed up front in standing alfalfa. Failing to produce birds, Robin asked her to relocate. She pointed again with one lone chicken coming up from behind. From this point on she settled into a strong forward all-age pattern using her country with plenty of intelligence. Spinning Reel had injured a front foot the day before and she was picked up early in her hour.



16. **Miller's Southern Pride (Furney) x Broadway Wampum (Gates)** Both of these dogs showed all-age range from the first blast of the whistle. After an absence nearly putting both dogs out of judgment they showed to the front and continued to eat up the country. Pride was found on point near some hay bales but Rick failed to produce any birds. Wampum headed south and didn't return under judgment. Pride settled into a strong forward pattern. Chickens lifted once out front in an old pasture but Pride had nothing to do with it. He finished his hour strong and to the front.
17. **Lester's Absolute (Davis) x Masterchoice (Gates)** Absolute is the 2005 Purina dog of the year and he won both the Sask. & Dominion Championships last year. Consistency and come back have been his trademarks but for reasons that can't be explained he headed north on this day and never looked back. Masterchoice followed suit and with both dogs being lost, the brace ended early.
18. **Miller's On Line (Furney) x Cypress Gunpowder (Daugherty)** Both dogs showed power and range from the get go each taking in big bites of country. On Line pointed far to the left with birds leaving him before we arrived. Gunpowder was attractive on the ground and showing all the class befitting of a National Champion. He was found pointed along a tree line known to hold Huns. While Andy attempted to flush these birds, Gunpowder corrected on his own and was quickly picked up. On Line, also a past National Champion continued to display a strong, forward all-age race. At pickup, point was called with both judges riding nearly a

mile to the front. Scout Scott Beehler indicated a bird had left and the relocation didn't pan out.

19. Redrock Liberty (D. Steinshouer) x Nauchamoma (Furney) Momma is a family affair owned by Mike Furney and his son Chad and handled by Uncle Rick. A fine young first year all-age dog, she showed class and all-age range from the start. Liberty is also a young female in her first all-age season. She is capably handled by her proud owner Doug Steinshouer. Liberty was in the peak of heat and didn't want to leave Doug far behind. Her restricted range prompted Doug to pick her up early in her hour. Momma was also picked up at the 52 minute mark when she failed to swing to the front for her handler Rick Furney.



20. Two Horse Hank (Davis) x Carolina Ranger (Gates) Hank was on point at five minutes on a sand ridge known to hold chickens. Ranger came into the scene at backed the stylish Hank. Davis failed to produce any birds and both dogs continued to lay out to the front. Temperatures were in the 90s by this point and these conditions took a toll on both dogs with handlers throwing in the towels near the 30 minute mark.
21. Broomhill Sam (Davis) x Flatwood Silver (Gates) Little wind and blistering temperatures took their toll early on Sam and Davis put him in harness when he started to shorten his cast. Silver was handling the heat well and continued to cast far to the front eating up massive amounts of country. At 47 minutes we saw chickens in the air. Robin soon spied the dog in heavy cover and called point. As Robin moved in to flush more birds left directly in front of the stylish dog, manners perfect. With 12 minutes left in his hour Silver rolled to the front eating up the country with strength to spare.
22. Afternoon High (Furney) x Taylor's Custom Made (F. Smith) Morning started with cool temperatures and a slight wind from the east. Both dogs started strong showing some good all-age cast. Afternoon High seemed to gain in strength and momentum as the hour wore on. Both dogs were far to the front at pickup time but

- neither was seen. High was finally spotted pointed on the far side of a distant bluff. A single chicken left with all in order, a true limb find nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to the front.
23. Cliff Dweller (Davis) x Super Shadow (Gates) Dweller was handling to the front but never seemed ready to use the next gear that would carry him to the country's limits. Shadow was reaching strong and pointed near a bluff with the wind right in his face. This is a spot where chickens had been seen most every day but today they were not home and he logged an unproductive in the books. Within 10 minutes he pointed once again along a fence row. This also proved unproductive and Robin put the harness on his dog. Cliff Dweller was not suiting Colvin so he picked him up also.
  24. Jim's Diamond Streak (Furney) x Royal Shadow (H. Gates) Both dogs started strong but neither dog seemed determined to use all the country in front of them. Furney elected to pickup before we crossed the road heading east. Hunter encouraged his young dog to take bigger bites of the country and when he failed to please him, he also elected to put him in the harness.
  25. Quicksilver Gold (Davis) x Kickapoo Buddy (Daugherty) The wind was picking up and had shifted from east to south. The dogs were turned into a wind that was growing stronger by the minute. About 10 minutes into the brace Gold had traveled far the west and was found on point by scout Mazie Davis. It took a long while to get the attention of the judges and after the long ride Gold had lost some of her style and the chicken had flushed but pitched down close by. Colvin flushed it a second time and all was in order. Buddy didn't like bucking the strong wind and was picked up at the 15 minute mark. As the course turned back to the north Gold started to reach again far to the front and finished on a nice cast toward the lake showing plenty of strength.
  26. Holy Joe (Gates) x Bocephus (Daugherty) Temperatures were near 90 degrees and the strong hot wind from the south was hard on both these dogs. Within 20 minutes these tough conditions had taken their toll and both dogs were picked up.
  27. Miller's Purchase Pride (Furney) x Mr. Powerpack (Daugherty)  
At 24 minutes Furney picked up with Andy following suit at the 34 minute mark. The wind and heat were taking their toll.
  28. Silverado Pete (Davis) x House's Snakebite (Daugherty) Pete made a big swing east toward the lake and never showed again to the front. Snakebite was putting down a solid performance and at 29 minutes we saw him point far to the front near a big bluff. As we rode to him four chickens lifted, a perfect piece of work. Snakebite continued to apply himself well and stayed to the front hunting all the likely spots. Conditions were brutal yet Snakebite seemed oblivious to these harsh conditions. His finish showed great strength and a solid performance under difficult wind conditions.



- 29. Silverado Santano (H. Gates) x Mega Diamond (C. Smith)** A wind out of the west and cooler conditions were present for this morning brace. Hunter picked his dog up early when he shortened and failed to find the all-age gear. Diamond was solid and to the front and gained in strength and range as the hour wore on. His last half hour was spectacular with one prairie cast after another. His performance was marred only by his failure to point birds.
- 30. Redrock High Country (L. Steinshouer) x Flatwood Earl (R. Gates)** This was Lori's first trip to Mortlach and the boundless prairie of Sask. While she regularly works in chukar country around Reno, this terrain was different. Her dog was still learning how big this country really is. At 12 minutes point was called for both dogs but when we arrived they were both moving and seemed to have gotten over it. Riding to the front Earl quickly pointed and a chicken flushed all in order. After crossing the road at Eastmonds, Earl pointed once more and Rock came in for a beautiful back. No birds were produced although it was a perfect bluff to hold chickens. Earl continued to make some nice cast. Rock was having trouble figuring out the scents and twice he was found pointed up front but birds could not be produced.
- 31. White Powder Pete (C. Davis) x Express Rail Jake (R. Gates)**  
Pete never could find the all-age gear and although he was making some nice swings, Colvin elected to pick him up when his range failed to lengthen. Jake was more aggressive with his cast. When he failed to find birds near the end of his hour he was also picked up. Conditions were brutal for both dogs running into a hot dry wind for most of their hour.
- 32. Twice The Man (A. Daugherty) x Point Blank (R. Gates)** For the first 30 minutes both dogs showed strength and a willingness to buck the strong wind coming from the north. At 26 minutes Man pointed chickens far to the left in the pasture toward the lake, everything in order for this find. Point Blank was making some strong cast but eventually the wind got to both dogs and they were put in the harness before the hour had ended.

### Saskatchewan Open Derby:

The derby stake may have been short on entries but certainly not on quality. The winners emerged with In The Shadow, handled by Hunter Gates, taking first. Shadow showed great promise with a strong prairie race and acceptably fall derby work on birds. Second was Irwin's Shadow Pride also handled by Hunter Gates. His placement was on the strength and forward pattern of his race. Third was awarded to Shadow's Perfect Pitch. This young derby had spent the winter in Texas being quail hunted by Dr. John Harris. Handled by Andy Daugherty, this dog shows great promise and will certainly make his mark in the upcoming season.



### Dominion Winner & Runner-up:

To some extent Miller's Southern Pride has had to live in the shadow of his famous littermate, Miller's On Line, especially after On Line won the National Championship in 2004. The shadows are not where this dog belongs and this was obvious when he hit the ground in the third brace of the Dominion Championship. Pride is owned by Chip McEwen & Mike Furney and is handled by Rick Furney. Pride immediately took charge of the country and was found far to the front in second growth alfalfa on a big covey of chickens. Minutes later his brace mate, Point Blank pointed Huns in the same field far to the right. As pride came forward regaining the front, he spied Point Blank and rolled into a beautiful back. Everything with this find was in perfect order. Pride got stronger with every cast and showed everyone just what a prairie, all-age race was all about. At 43 minutes we watched him vanish far to the right on a big swing toward the front. Scott Beehler rode over past the crest of the hill and called point. He had a large covey of chickens pointed with perfect location and arresting style. His finish was strong, ending on a distant cast far to the front. Rester's Perfect Storm is owned by Jack Harang and is handled by Robin Gates. Storm began his brace with purpose and his strong forward cast carried him to every likely

objective. Using the wind perfectly he was last seen crossing the hill top just past choke cherry lane. When he failed to show to the front, Robin rode over to the left and found Storm pointed almost exactly where the Copper Penny dog had pointed chickens in the Sask. Championship. This time the birds were Huns and all was in order, a perfect prairie limb find. Storm continued to lay out a blistering prairie race and finished with a cast taking him more than a mile to the front. A second year all-age dog, Storm will make his mark in top competition throughout the coming seasons.



**Brace by brace report:**

- 1. High Noon Outlaw (R. Furney) x Carolina Ranger (R. Gates)** Both dogs showed strength and all-age range from the very beginning with Ranger being somewhat more lateral. Outlaw gained in strength as the hour passed. The call of point at pickup found Outlaw far to the front pointed on a fence row. A relocation failed to produce birds and Outlaw was credited with an unproductive.
- 2. Prairieland Britt (R. Furney) x Barshoe Busy (A. Daugherty)** Britt made some impressive cast early in the hour and logged an unproductive near the 30 minute mark. Busy vanished in crop fields to the north. When Andy asked for the tracker the signal came in that the dog was lost on point ending his bid for the title. Britt finished strong and to the front.
- 3. Miller's Southern Pride (R. Furney) x Point Blank (R. Gates)** Prides performance is depicted in the winner's record. Point Blank rendered a thrilling performance with a find on Huns at the 8 minute mark where he was backed by his brace mate. He went on to give a solid prairie race closely approaching that of the winners.



**4. Cliff Dweller (C. Davis) x Rester's Copper Penny (S. Beehler) Penny pointed early logging a nonproductive. Dweller backed then moved in on the point causing him to be picked up. Penny wasn't pleasing Scott Beehler so the brace ended early.**

**5. Just Denver (R. Littell) x Royal Shadow (R. Gates) Denver knows how to roll on the prairies and his first cast took him out of judgment not returning in the time allowed. Shadow was unable to crank it up and Robin picked up his dog when his cast shortened.**

**6. Justina (C. Davis) x She's So Fine (R. Gates) Both dogs started out making some nice all-age cast to the front. At the eleven minute mark So Fine pointed far to the front in cut alfalfa. She looked like she had birds right in front of her but it proved unproductive. She was picked up after another unproductive near a place where we had seen chickens pitch down. Justina shortened at 50 minutes and was picked up.**

**7. Keeper (C. Davis) x Super Shadow (R. Gates) At four minutes Keeper pointed along a fence row on her breakaway cast. Huns lifted as we rode to her and she took the liberty of a few extra jumps causing Colvin to pick her up. Super Shadow had added a back on Keeper's early find but he was also picked up when his race shortened.**

**8. Silverado's Pete (C. Davis) x South Late Night (R. Furney) It was a near perfect morning with a light breeze out of the Northwest and cool temperatures in the 40s. Pete didn't suit Colvin from the get go and was picked up early. Late Night made some impressive cast, pointed once but got over it and was eventually picked up when his overall performance failed to suit Rick Furney.**

**9. Jim's Diamond Streak (R. Furney) x Rester's Perfect Storm**

(R. Gates) Jim Finn was riding to watch his young contender Diamond who was putting down a smooth handling all-age race only to be marred by an unproductive at the 33 minute mark. Perfect Storm secured the runner-up spot and his performance was described with the winners.

10. White Powder Pete (C. Davis) x Hydro True Root (F. Smith) Pete and True Root had a divided find at the 15 minute mark on a chicken along the Cargana shrub line just south of Eastmond's house. Pete suffered an unproductive at the 48 minute mark and was picked up at 52 minutes. True Root finished the hour getting stronger near the end.

11. Lester's Absolute (C. Davis) x Flatwood Silver (H. Gates) Neither dog pointed birds and both were picked up when their patterns failed to please their handlers.

12. Law's High Noon (R. Furney) x Cypress Gunpowder (A. Daugherty) Two National Champions, Noon (2001) and Gunpowder (2005), going against each other head to head on the Canadian Prairies. At 17 minutes Gunpowder scored on a covey of Huns to the left side of Chicken Alley. Gunpowder scored again at 35 minutes on a Cargana shrub line. His race was conservative, never really stretching to the limits of the prairie. High Noon hit a different gear and was lost in the second half of his hour.

13. Redrock High Country (L. Steinshouer) x Twice The Man (A. Daugherty) Lori and Doug Steinshouer had come from Nevada to run their young and very successful multiple champion. At 18 minutes High Country scored an unproductive in a field where we had seen chickens almost every day. At 28 minutes Twice The Man was seen pointed far to the front but when he moved up on his birds they flushed, resulting in a wreck and putting him in the harness. Birds pitched into a fence line and bluff where High Country was soon found on point. Lori failed to produce the birds and picked her dog up thus ending the brace.

14. Two Horse Hank (C. Davis) x Holy Joe (H. Gates) Both dogs started strong and showed some nice cast initially but soon settled into more moderate races that would not challenge those that had already run so both dogs were picked up after the half way mark.

15. Quicksilver Gold (C. Davis) x Miller's Total Eclipse (A. Daugherty) Both dogs made some nice swings early in their hour. Their swings kept them toward the front and both showed good application in their search for birds. Eclipse had boots on having lost his pads during the Sask. Stake. This did not affect his strong, searching race. Don Stroble was on hand to watch his young contender put down a prairie race and he wasn't disappointed. Neither dog was able to connect with birds even though their search had taken them to most of the right places.



**16. Nachamoma (R. Furney) x House's Tess (A. Daugherty) Tess was strong from the first cast and at 20 minutes when she hadn't shown to the front, Andy asked for the Tracker ending her bid for this title. Furney's young contender shortened at the 30 minute mark and was picked up early.**

**17. Miller's On Line (R. Furney) x Flatwood Earl (R. Gates) At 20 minutes point was called for Earl. Furney called the flight of birds for Robin but they went unseen by the judges. On Line loves the prairies and has no problem pushing the limits. At 25 minutes his cast had carried him out of judgment thus ending his hour. Earl made some strong, impressive cast but ended his hour with only the one unproductive.**

**18. Jukebox (M. Peretto) x Shortskirt (R. Gates) Conditions had turned brutal with a hot, dry wind out of the south and temperatures well into the nineties. These conditions took their toll on both dogs causing the brace to end early.**

**19. Spinning Reel (C. Davis) x Broadway Sliver Bell (R. Gates) Both of these females were affected by the same brutal conditions affecting brace 18. When both dogs failed to run into this hot, dry wind they were also picked up early.**

**20. Highnoon Gamble (R. Furney) x Taylor's Custom Made (F. Smith) Conditions continued for the entire afternoon running taking their toll on both of these dogs before the 30 minute mark.**

**21. True Survivor (C. Davis) x Silverado Santano (H. Gates) Only a few dogs seem to be able to handle extreme heat and punishing dry winds. Survivor seems to be that kind of dog, putting down a strong, forward, prairie race as if the conditions were ideal. Heading toward the lake he was found pointed with extreme style on the maple tree line. He had a**

chicken pinned perfectly. Turned loose he went to the end of this same line, wheeled and point again, possibly stopping to the flight of a hawk that had flown from a tree overhead. Sent on, he continued to gain strength, seemingly oblivious to the heat and wind, finishing his hour with strength to spare. The heat ended Santano's hour early.



22. Miller's Purchase Pride (R. Furney) x Bocephus (A. Daugherty) A wreck ended the Bocephus bid early. Pride was picked up when he failed to please.

23. Bitterroot's Return (M. Peretto) x House's Snakebite (A. Daugherty) Return had a nice find on chickens at 17 minutes. At 29 minutes he added an unproductive and was put in the harness. Snakebite vanished and Andy called for the Tracker at 29 minutes. The signal indicated he was lost on point, a bad piece of luck for a dog that had just won the Sask. Championship with a thrilling performance.



**24. Frontline Striker (R. Furney) x Master Choice (H. Gates) Striker suffered an unproductive at 20 minutes and was picked up by his handler when he failed to please. Master Choice made a few big swings but the one to the south took him out of judgement never regaining the front after we had made the 180 degree turn back to the north.**

**25. Briarcrest (R. Furney) x Mega Diamond (C. Smith) Briarcrest had a strong start but was put in the harness after a mishap with his birds. Diamond gained strength throughout the hour making some impressive and strong cast to the front as we approached the Eastmond homestead. His finish was strong, to the front and impressive.**

**26. Broomhill Sam (C. Davis) x Joe Texas (R. Gates) Sam's pattern was erratic and he wasn't pleasing Colvin so he was picked up near the 15 minute mark. Joe put down a strong race with some impressive all-age cast to the front but he failed to point birds.**

**27. Tekoa Mountain Patroit (C. Davis) x Rester's Strike Zone (H. Gates) The temperature was at 92 degrees and the wind was once again making it tough on the dogs. Patriot had been impressive here a few years ago when he won a prairie title. These conditions were not to his liking and when his race shortened Colvin elected to pick him up. Strike Zone made a big swing along the lake and never returned.**

**28. Afternoon High (R. Furney) x Kickapoo Buddy (A. Daugherty) Point was called for Buddy at 13 minutes. Birds continued to lift as we rode to him and the posture he assumed after flush did not please Andy, so he was picked up. Afternoon High had a back on this find but an unproductive later at the 16 minute mark and a race that was getting shorter had him in the harness early.**

**29. Express Rail Jake (R. Gates) x Mister Power Pack (A. Daugherty) Power Pack was gone early in the hour. Jake was impressive running in brutal weather conditions yet still showing plenty of strength. He suffered an unproductive. This was becoming pretty common place with so many other dogs also seemed to be having difficulty with the**

**scenting conditions that were created by the hot dry winds that were prevalent during much of the running.**