



2005 Dakota Prairie Championship
hosted by the Ringneck Brittany Club
September 26-29, 2005
Bonesteel, South Dakota

Smarteye's Joker, six year old male Brittany was the top dog at the 2005 Dakota Prairie Championship run the 26-29th of September just outside of Bonesteel, South Dakota. Jordan has spent all of his career in the string of pro trainer and handler Jim John of Yates Center, Kansas. Jordan is owned by the likeable Steve Ralph of Forest Lake, Minnesota, and has been one of the most consistent competitors in the midwest hour stakes the past couple years. This win is another attestation to his ability, as shown by a strong hour of intelligent running with his lone find coming at 57 minutes. In second place, **Gunrunner's Lady's Man**, handled by Jimmy Berneathy, Vinita, Oklahoma and owned by Norman Ahl, had two finds and a strong finish. **Diamond Hill Dan** was third with a championship quality run, and one find. Dan is owned by Paul Pollack, from New Jersey and handled by John Kline from Virginia. In fourth place was RuJem's StopNWatch, call name Quill, with his owner Jerry McGee handling him. Quill ran with an injured paw and taped feet, but managed to overcome the handicap to put in an hour of applied hunting, and had a find, a back and a stop to flush to his credit. 49 dogs were drawn with 48 actually starting.

The host club is the Ringneck Brittany Club, small in number, but dedicated to putting on a class trial. We had two of the most respected people in the Brittany world as judges, Ray Trimble, of Carterville, Illinois and Mary Karbinger, Bellevue, Texas. Ray has been an active trialer for over 40 years, winning the National Open All Age Championship in 1963 with Crab Orchard Duke and the National Amateur Championship in 1986 with Crab Orchard Jet. He has fulfilled many an assignment as judge at championships as well as regional trials. Mary Karbinger has been a part of the game nearly as long, first as the owner of several dual champions, including hall of famer & National Champion, MarKar's Jac's A Dan D and since then has filled just about every position there is in this sport, as a judge, reporter, trainer, and scout. Both Ray and Mary have worked for the American Brittany Club in a variety of ways. As judges, they were observant, positive and knowledgeable. There was a standard set in their minds for a champion and they stuck to it. Their decisions were well received.

The Dave Tech ranch is the headquarters to this championship, as well as portions of land owned by the Varlick family, Jim Selles. and Bob Viktoria. With vast rolling hills, hay meadows, croplands, pastures of

native grasses, all bordered by great natural habitat for pheasant, sharptails, and prairie chickens there are few better places to show an all age bird dog in America today. I didn't say it was the easiest place, as there will be no pretenders winning here. Only a well conditioned dog that gets out and gets after it will win here. The birds are wild, the land is big, and challenges of weather and terrain will eliminate many in the course of the running. Three one hour courses are available, and are run as a true continuous course, with dogs are put down where the last brace was picked up.

We value the contributions of Purina as a sponser of the trial. Winners recieved bags of Pro Plan, and all competitors were given samples of the high quality product. The financial help given by this company allows the continuation of a sport that we love, that might not be able to go on without company sponsorship.

The running: Monday morning was sunny and pleasant temperatures after a weekend that saw five inches of rain dumped on the grounds. The grass was wet, with sloppy footing in the mud. The high for the day would be 75 degrees mid afternoon.

Brace 1# Rip It Up (Garrow) & Dakota Alley Cat-call name "Tiger" (Kline)

At breakaway, Rip quickly vanished over the hill. Tiger broke away doing the feed strips to the right, and powered his way to the front, eating up ground with his long strides. Rip was seen briefly at the first gate and again at the big pond. Al asked for tracker at 34. The judges rode up several scatterd pheasant that were taking the oppertunity to dry themselves off in the sun on top of a long high ridge. Tiger's last sighting was a big forward move that put him up the gully to the left leading to the big hay meadow. John needed the tracker at 44 minutes.

Brace 2# Tequila With A Twist call name "Taryn" (Tillson) & Rambling Man call name "Randy" (Garrow)

Breaking away into the big hay meadow, Randy forward at moderate range. Taryn chose the right hand edge to run and was the wider of the two. At 22, a stylish stand by Randy proved to be unproductive. At 36, Taryn was spotted standing to the front. Randy backed nicely. Taryn's attitude suggested she was stopped by the chickens that Ed had seen fly over; he fired and took her on. Judges did not observe birds. Taryn had a brief flat spot before rallying to make a nice finish in the bottom on the left leading up to the shale canyon.

Brace 3# TJ's Thunder (John) & Ajax Diamond Dyna Mite (Holman)

After a short coffee break, we broke away above the scenic canyon with Thunder lasting less than a minute before he had an unfortunate encounter with a prairie chicken. Dyna is a quick moving swift little bitch. At 17 she acted birdy and briefly stopped but never established a real point. Two minutes later, and two hills over, she had a stop to flush on a sharptail. As we dropped along the creek bottom, it warmed up and Dyna slowed the pace somewhat. At 49, Dyna pointed into a thick plum stand. Judge Karbiner spotted a rabbit, then two mule deer exiting. The rest of the hour was uneventful.

Brace 4# Le Grand Tank du Fayette (Garrow) & Shady's Tia Maria (Berneathy)

This pair quickly broke away over the hill to the front. Jimmy pointed out Tia at twelve o'clock in the second field, while Tank cut to the right to hunt the feed strips. At 16, Tank suffered a breech of manners on a pheasant and got to return to the dog wagon early. At the same time point was called for Tia, who had probably been standing for some time, along the edge of a feed strip to the left. A diligent effort to relocate was fruitless. Tia continued a good forward race, handling kindly. At 39, Jimmy called point beside a haystack. He saw the bird get up and run between the bales in a tiny opening. Jimmy attempted every which way to dislodge the bird so he could show it the judges, including trying to push the bales apart, but had no luck whatsoever. The gallery was entertained, but it was frustrating for Jimmy to have Tia's good efforts go unrewarded. Just after time, Tia was again found on point, but it was another nonproductive.

Brace 5# George Dubya (Rohner) and Gambler's Good Deal call name "Billie" (Holman)

Billie broke away to the left and took a very wide swing in that direction with handler and judge in tow.

George too vanished, and for awhile both dogs were awol. Chad found George while looking for Billie and brought him back onto course. Billie reappeared soon after George. George was not responding to his unfamiliar handler, and equally confused by a scout trying to bring him forward. He was picked up at the creek crossing. Billie wilted badly in the last twenty minutes.

Brace 6# Sunrise Dot Com call name "Bill" (Rohner) and Kinwashkly Dakota Molester (Seivert)

Bill ran a consistent forward race through out his hour, showing regularly and handling well. Lester began slowly and was moderate for about 40 minutes. He began stretching out the last twenty minutes and hunting the draws to the right of the course. Neither dog had birdwork.

No dogs were posted for Monday.

Tuesday , it was much windier and while cool early in the morning would reach a high of 81 degrees by mid afternoon.

Brace 7# Sting (Garrow) & TJ's Apache call name "Bandit" (Tillson)

Breakaway on course one, this pair got right to business. At 8 minutes Bandit pointed into a feed strip with Sting backing smartly, with a cock bird flushed and all manners in order. Both dogs continued to hunt well forward through the big hay meadow, but as we crossed the road, Ed spotted Bandit under a large covey of chicken and leashed him. At 40, Sting was on point, but during the flushing attempt she lost composure and was ordered up.

Brace 8# Trademark's ATM call name "Cash" (Holman) & Chancey Jackpot Lotto (Rohner)

The Chases were present to watch their young dog, Cash. On a wide swing to the left, Cash had an encounter with sharptail without the required manners to end his bid very early. Chance had dropped into the draw on the right, and was gone for an extended absence. He was spotted again when deer were moved, Chance being gathered and brought to the front. He made some powerful all age casts before he took off into the thick cover of the creek crossing, not to return under judgement.

Brace 9# Gunrunner's Lady's Man call name "Lutie" (Berneathy) & Castle's Bottle Rocket (John) Lutie and Rocket took off nicely just beyond the artesian wells. Rocket did not sustain his early pace long, and Jim John picked him up early. Lutie ran with enthusiasm but took the easy going at times. As we came to the shale covered canyon, a covey of sharptail rose. On the opposite lip of the rim, Lutie was spotted pointing intensely. Jimmy flushed a single sharptail right in front of him. Three minutes later he established pointed with good style beside a gate, with two pheasants flushed for him. A dip in the stock tank brought Lutie to a new level and he began to run and apply himself in earnest. He had some excellent moves as we approached the backend of what is the single course of the weekend trial, rimming the feed strips and flying with great speed to the next objective. He was strong at the finish as he was seen as a little white speck moving out across the pasture land briefly glimpsed through the trees heading towards camp.

Brace 10# Jake Acre's In Disguish (Garrow) & Perfect Timing (Holman)

Breaking away on course one, Jake went right, while Ty ran along the feed strip on the left edge. Jake hunted the first field handily, but vanished by the second field and was next spotted clear across the adjoining pasture. When he wouldn't accept the scout's guidance to get him back on course, Al threw in the towel. Ty showed far forward hunting the feed strips with intelligence before dropping into the left draw for a big move. He shot through the toughest cover with determined purpose, and going to the right places with nice speed. After an absence, Ty returned covered with burrs and soon, his promising challenge diminished. Chad picked him up at the big hay meadow.

Brace 11# Cheyenne Joker's Star Buck (Cross) & Ru Jem's Field Of Feathers (McGee)

Buck and Feather began their day's work at the gate into the pasture that is normally the last third of course one. Buck was deep into the left side of the course when point was called for him, but the object of his interest was a skunk. At 18, Feather pointed into a plum thicket with a sharptail produced. At 26, Feather again pointed into cover where a flock of sharptail was taking a nap in the shade. Her race was one of great application at shooting dog range, consistently forward and handling like a glove. Both dogs were to the

front and handling well as we crossed the creek. Buck had made some nice casts as he finished his hour, but was birdless.

Brace 12# RuJem's Stop N Watch call name Quill (MCGee) & Lane's End Bowtie Annie (Holman)

Breaking away across the rolling hay meadows, Annie started slowly, diligent in hunting but range short for an all age stake. Quill was running with taped feet to protect a recent injury, and took awhile warming up. At 14, point was called for Annie but waved off as she moved on. At about 20, Quill started moving out with hunting on his mind. He styled up on a knoll above the dam with Jerry having no luck in finding a bird. Annie had a stop to flush on a pheasant at 36. Quill arrived on the scene and backed her. Chad chose to pick her up at this time due to her race. Quill was punching cover with a thoroughness as we arrived on the weekend gun dog course. At 50, he pointed into tall weeds behind the old buildings, a tough spot to flush, but Jerry persisted and moved an immature rooster out of there. Quill continued on to run the edges of the feed strips. At 55 Quill had a stop to flush on a pheasant. Although his race was not extreme it was well applied and gave us a pleasant hour of watching.

Posted dogs for Tuesday Gunrunner's Lady's Man, RuJem's Stop N Watch, RuJem's Field of Feathers Wednesday morning had us waking to more rain which fizzled out during the first brace, and much colder weather. The winds if anything, had increased. It will be difficult to handle wild birds properly today.

Brace 13# Kolicko's Cuervo Joker-call name C.J. (Berneathy) & Rock (Rohner)

C.J. and Rock hit a lick right from the breakaway on course one, moving out front with good speed. They were seen just enough. Both were pointed out as we passed the dam, with Rock shooting down the draw and C.J. higher up on the hillside.

Rock was wide to the left as we went through the gates near the beehives, and when he returned at 27, he had torn back a big flap of skin. Rob picked him up. C.J. made a big cast taking the right edge of an uncut cornfield out of sight, and was not seen again within judgement.

Brace 14# Rebel Jac's Hammering Dandy (Holman) and Material Girl (Garrow)

Girl made a big reach around a hill to the left soon after breakaway. At 7 a large flock of sharptail rose on their own in front of us. At 8 as Girl went through the same area, several more rose and she had a stop to flush recorded. Jack punched into the wind to the front, checking out likely cover. At 17 a sharptail lifted wild in front of him and he couldn't resist following it. As we passed through the shale canyon, Al was riding an edge when a hen pheasant was flushed by his horse. He then saw Girl standing in the area, and when he got off to shoot, another bird rose beside the dog. Most of Girl's race was of medium proportions.

Brace 15# Tequila Jack II (John) & Bouncing Betty (Garrow)

These two dogs were doing all age jobs- the high winds made hearing difficult and as a result there was a little riding to gather wayward charges in the first ten minutes. Once the dogs had turned out of the fierce winds, handling response improved. Jack ran the creek bottom to the right the way it should be run-fast and smartly. Betty is a very quick dog and was covering a lot of ground too. Jack made a masterful move up and over a hill as we turned to go to the artesian wells-and Betty made a similiar move soon after. Jack ducked back into the woods on the right at the artesian wells, and got lost to end an exciting race. We turned up hill with Betty, back into the high velocity head wind and she shortened. Aat 47, down a very steep bank with a plum thicket at the base Betty had a stop to flush. As Al was taking her out of there, she began acting birdy and he hunted her up the draw. She was obviously tracking something when the marshall's horse put up a pheasant. She didn't see it and was somewhat confused by the whoaing and shot that followed.

Brace 16# KB's Shadow Dancer (John) & Trademark's Ice Man call name "Timmy" (Holman)

Timmy, a young dog, took a bird out in the feed strip to left less than 1 minute out. Dancer, also a young dog, put down a decent race, looking especially good on an extended cast down the tree line coming up to the beehives. At 59 minutes he pointed standing high on a hillside, but nothing came of this stand. The hour ended with Jimmy trying to produce that elusive bird.

Brace 17# Ortho Acre's Booker T (Rohner) & Lane's End We Be Clean (Holman)

Two very white dogs were easy to see as we broke towards the dry creek crossing. Booker was the wider of the two. At 20 minutes, Booker was to record a stop to flush. At 28 Booker was seen under a bird. WeBe wheeled into a tight point into the tall grass along side the road as he was crossing it at 30. A non-game bird, a coot, flew and WeBe sat down, so Chad elected to pick him up.

Brace 18# The Prairie Tornado call name "Twister" (Tillson) & Linvel's Ace of Diamonds (Kline)

Twister hunted the grassy fingers in the hay field where we broke away, while Ace immediately dropped right and began to string together casts that had the maturity and intelligence of an adult dog with the speed and enthusiasm of a young dog. He was exciting to watch, fluid in gait, yet willing to take directions. He stopped briefly downhill from the stock tank, but moved on before point was called. At the large pond, he took an extended forward cast just as we were to turn and this caused him to briefly be behind. He shot to the front on his own as soon as he realized he had been left. At 26, Ace was seen standing with style in a grassy finger. Sharptail were put up in front of a high headed and tailed young dog with polished manners. He styled up again in a great but very thick spot at 32, but no birds could be flushed for him. Up ahead, Twister had been picked up as she was not doing her usual competitive job. At 38, we caught up with the forward party and just as we did, Ace ran to the end of the nearest finger, and a pheasant popped out. Ace stopped, the bird landed directly behind him, staring at him brazenly. John fired his gun, Ace turned his head and saw the bird one foot behind him and couldn't resist trying to catch him. The talent show was over, and we were all sorry to see a great competitor out of contention. You will hear more about this one in the future.

Thursday dawned with even stronger winds than the day before. It was very chilly, barely above freezing in the morning, but warming to the low 70's by afternoon.

Brace 19# Tequila Joker's Jose Cuervo (Berneathy) and Smokey's Magic call name "Jag" (Holman)

This pair broke away under blue skies, but with a howling wind and temperatures just above freezing, it was not pleasant. Jose took the initiative early to search the front with Jag being more handy. At 18 at the gate above the dam, Jag went with a scattered flock of chicken out feeding on the left hand side of a knob. Jose was gathered from the draw below at the same time. Jose briefly pointed in the grassy ditch that intersects the hay meadow midway, but did not linger after deciding there were no birds. At 45 out in the big pasture he had a nonproductive. Two minutes later, further down the course, three sharptails rose and Jose was stopped watching them fly away.

Brace 20# Make My Day Dude (Tillson) & Harlig's Breton Smith (Holman)

Dude ran a somewhat erratic effort with some good moves, interspersed with shorter range. Bret started out well, and put down some good moves early in the course. At 30, just off the road of the shale canyon, Bret pointed. Nothing was raised and Bret was relocated until he established again. Chad saw a chicken depart, but it was not seen by the judge. He was to last the hour but with a slower pace the last twenty minutes.

Brace 21# Smarteye's Joker call name "Jordan" (John) & MoDan's Believer call name "Buddy" (Cross)

All age races began at the breakaway for both dogs on the number 3 course. Jordan went racing through a long draw uphill, as far as the eye could see, crossed to the front left to right, and dropped into the cover in the right hand side of the course, always moving forward. Buddy took the same left draw, smoking until he was just a dark speck on the horizon before he powered up the hill. At 15, Buddy wheeled into a point, but no birds were seen. Jordan continued to move out rimming all the cover, taking a wide swing around the dam, and returning on his own, to trace all the grassy fingers with a strong gait. Buddy was equalling him in the race department, a pair of good all age dogs. As we neared the end of the course, Jordan's scout called point at 57. Jordan was stylish and intense, pointing into a feed strip. The first attempt to flush was unsuccessful, so the dog was relocated. He disappeared into the jungle of a feed strip to again point staunchly. Another effort to relocate was needed-this time successfully as a hen pheasant reluctant to leave her hiding place was rooted out. Buddy had a non-productive stand in a feed strip where the birds have all the advantages right at the end of the hour.

Brace 22# Fade To Black call name "Mack" (Holman) & Shambo's Dark Shadow (John)

Mack began impressively, running hard into the wind, and challenging the hills to the front. Shadow skirted all the cover on the right with his powerful ground covering gait. As we passed the uncut corn, a bird rose with Shadow in the vicinity, but no clear view of what had happened. Shadow continued to show well in the hills of the pasture across the road. Mack had a nonproductive stand at 48. The wind and heat took their toll. Both Mack and Shadow finished on the tired side.

Brace 23# Ajax or Better (Holman) & Clyde's Micro Breeze (Kline)

Neither dog could generate much ambition for the task at hand with hurricane type winds to deal with. Both handlers had dogs on checkcords by 30 minutes.

Brace 24# Diamond Hill Dan (Kline) & Annie Time Soon (Holman)

Soo was originally a bye dog, but Billy's Random Task, originally drawn in this brace was scratched, and Soo ran in his place. Dan had his running gear in order and was seen in the distance going away. Soo was doing a pretty fair job too with good casts to cover. At 21, Dan pointed into a grassy finger, standing well out in the hayfield. Almost immediately John sent him on to relocate. As he cautiously worked up the edge, at the top of the finger, Chad called point for Soo, and John whoaed Dan as he was not in a position where he could see Soo buried in a plum thicket. Soo's point was rewarded with a well located rooster flying out, all manners in order. Both dogs are taken out and sent on. At 29, as Dan was leaving another ravine, a pheasant flew up beside him the wrong side of the wind. Both he and Soo got credit for a stop to flush. At 31, Dan had a nonproductive. Somewhere in his wide ramblings, Dan had connected with a skunk. At 38, Dan pointed on a narrow millet strip that bordered a deep tangled coulee. No bird was initially produced. The relocation took eight minutes, Dan worked cautiously down hill before coming out and re-establishing on the same edge he started on, only ten feet farther to the right. This time a rooster came rocketing out. Its amazing to think a freshly skunked dog could find a bird. Soo ran out of gas and was leashed at 45. The last fifteen minutes, Dan resumed his all age reach and flew down the ravines at the left of the gun dog course with no let up at all.

1st place-Smarteye's Joker

(By Tequila's Joker ex Smarteye's Microbeams)
owner Steve Ralph, handler Jim John

2nd place- Gunrunner's Lady's Man

(By Shotshell's Flyer ex Gunrunner's Whetstone Lady)
owner Norman Ahl, handler Jim Berneathy

3rd place-Diamond Hill Dan

(Delta Dashing PDQ ex Top Gun Anna Belle)
owner Paul Pollack, handler John Kline

4th place-RuJem's Stop N Watch

(The Time Machine ex RuJem's Field of Feathers)
owner/handler Jerry McGee