

Retrievers of the Past...

By Joule Charney

“
If he were
a person
he would
have been a
**FIELD TRIAL
JUDGE.**
”

Of all his exceptional qualities, it was Cody's 'headiness' that made him unique, according to his primary owner. "He was heady but very stylish," recalls Judy Weikel Aycock.

By that, Judy does not mean 'head-strong.' With Cody, it was just the opposite. "You showed him what you wanted, and he'd do it." Cody was an outstanding marker, phenomenally trainable and he had "desire to the nth degree." Further, he was the most "well-balanced, all-

around" retriever she ever has seen. But, Cody's greatest strengths, Judy says, were his human-like intelligence and how he used his brain. In short, "Cody understood the game and how to play it."

It was a game he played at the highest echelon of excellence. In terms of Lifetime Points, only one retriever has been able to outplay the 1984 National Amateur Field Champion, who was born in 1978. Cody's total of 444 points, amassed in 1989, places him behind only River Oaks Corky, the 1972 and 1975 National Field Champion, who accumulated 505.5 points, the top record of all time, by the end of his career in 1977.

Career Highlights...

Cody distinguished himself early, placing in a major stake at only 17 months of age. He went on to qualify for twenty U.S. Nationals (Open and Amateur), was a National Finalist seven times, won five double-headers, and he earned the Purina "Outstanding Field Trial Retriever Award" twice. Cody also was the 1983 High Point Amateur Dog. Of his 444 All-Age points, 250.5 were in the Open, and 193.5 were in the Amateur.

Cody, who was inducted into the Retriever Field Trial Hall of Fame in 1993, produced 64 titled offspring.

Formidable Four

Corky and Cody's incredibly long-standing strangleholds as the #1 and #2 Highest Scoring Dogs ever are so long-lived that it almost is incomprehensible that they are currently the #1 and #2 High Point Retrievers Of All Time. Add to that mind-boggling accomplishment the fact that these records, despite the intervening decades, are not even in jeopardy... Only two other retrievers have come even close: to Corky and Cody's staggering point accomplishments: FC-AFC Creek Robber, with 421.5, and 1978 NAFC-FC Kannonball Kate, with 410.5. Creek Robber is approaching age 13, and Kate's record was set back in 1983. These fabulous four, three males and Kate, all black labradors, are the only retrievers in history to exceed 400 lifetime points.

Dynamic Duo

It is difficult not to compare Cody to his famous father, 1976 NFC-AFC San Joaquin Honcho, who also was owned by Judy and

Ed Aycock. It may come as a surprise, however, to learn just how different the two were from one another. Cody "had a sense of what was going on. He had street smarts." Cody excelled at easy and at difficult trials. In contrast, Honcho "wouldn't do well on easy tests."

Honcho tended to make mistakes when he wasn't challenged; whereas, Cody rarely made mistakes, explains Judy. Further, Judy didn't have to 'fight' with Cody like she did with his sire. It was Honcho's 'tremendous drive' and athleticism that Judy admires the most about him, citing 'a big, tough cross-wind swim' as just one feat at which Honcho excelled. Sadly, Judy wistfully adds, "You don't know what he could have been." Honcho was forced into early retirement after he was afflicted with blastomycosis when he was six years old.

Continued on page 81



1984 NAFC-FC TRUMARC'S ZIP CODE

OPEN	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	TOTAL:
Starts	3	18	19	16	14	17	14	13	20	20	15	169
First	0	2	2	5	3	6	4	3	6	3	2	36
Second	0	1	2	3	5	2	2	2	3	2	0	22
Third	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	6
Fourth	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Places	0	5	5	8	8	9	6	5	11	6	2	65
Jams	?	3	4	3	0	0	3	0	2	4	4	23
# Finished	?	8	9	11	8	9	9	5	13	10	6	88
% Finished	?%	44%	47%	69%	57%	53%	64%	38%	65%	50%	40%	52%
Open Points	0.0	15.0	17.0	34.0	30.0	36.0	26.0	21.0	41.0	22.0	10.0	250.5
Cumulative Pts.	0.0	15.0	32.0	66.0	96.0	132.5	156.5	177.5	218.5	240.5	250.5	250.5
AMATEUR	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	TOTAL:
Starts	3	17	15	16	14	16	8	11	13	16	6	135
First	0	4	2	2	6	4	2	0	1	4	0	25
Second	0	2	4	2	0	2	0	2	1	1	2	16
Third	0	0	2	6	2	1	0	2	2	1	0	15
Fourth	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	9
Places	1	7	10	11	9	8	2	4	5	7	2	66
Jams	0	1	1	0	0	2	3	1	3	4	1	16
# Finished	1	8	11	11	9	10	5	5	8	11	3	82
% Finished	33%	47%	73%	69%	64%	63%	63%	45%	62%	69%	50%	61%
Amateur Points	0.5	26.5	25.0	22.5	32.5	27.5	10.0	8.0	10.5	24.5	6.0	193.5
Cumulative Pts.	0.5	26.0	52.0	74.5	107.0	134.5	144.5	152.5	163.0	187.5	193.5	193.5
ALL AGE	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	TOTAL:
All Age By Year	0.5	41.5	42.0	56.5	62.5	64.0	36.0	29.0	51.5	56.5	16.0	444.0
Cumulative Total	0.5	42.0	84.0	140.5	203.0	267.0	303.0	332.0	383.5	428.0	444.0	444.0

OWNER: J. WEIKEL
 BIRTHDATE 3/3/78
 13 DERBY POINTS

Avg open points per year: 23
 Avg amateur pts per year: 18
 Avg all age pts per year: 40

In The Beginning

Judy's experience in dog training dates back to when she was a "little kid" involved in competitive obedience. In college, she got into retriever work "by accident," recalling, "It was more challenging to train a dog to do retrieves."

In her characteristically succinct and linear style, Judy describes the remainder of her thought process: "I lived in California. Super Chief was the most common name. Rex Carr was his trainer. Rex was in California. I figured I ought to go meet that guy."

Judy bought her first retriever, a six month old Lab she called Raider, and began training with Rex around 1971. His breeding wasn't too shabby - He was out of 2x (1966 and 1969) NFC Whygin Cork's Coot and an FC-AFC Dam. Two or three months after buying Raider, Judy bought 'Punt.' The two youngsters were to become the first Trumarc dogs, a kennel name that Judy minted due to her belief that marking is of paramount importance in a retriever.

Punt, whose registered name was Trumarc's Triple Threat, became a Dual Champion. He was Judy's one and only, however, as she became "very disillusioned with the bench world." Her first pup, FC-AFC Trumarc's Raider, sired Honcho, who subsequently sired Cody.

Judy purchased Honcho from John Folsom, now of Highest Retrievers of Oroville, CA, who was Rex's assistant at the time. Honcho's foray into a sport judged on lines definitely was not via a straight-forward route. According to Judy, when Honcho was around six months old, John traded him in an exchange for hunting privileges. After a visit to the hunting preserve revealed that Honcho was "running loose," John "repossessed" him. Rex and Judy, who were looking for a Raider son at that time, saw such extraordinary potential in Honcho that Judy paid a handsome price for him, even though he was "a young, unproven dog."

Cody was acquired in a much more standard manner. Judy and her husband Ed Aycock received him as a stud fee puppy out of Jerry

Retrievers of the Past

Patopea's bitch, Seymour's Windjammer Mist, a full litter mate to 1978 NAFC-FC Kannonball Kate. Two of Cody's half-siblings via Honcho also are National Winners: 'Tank' (1990 NAFC – 1992 NFC Candlewood's Super Tanker) and 'Boo' (1988 NAFC-FC Honky Tonk Hero).

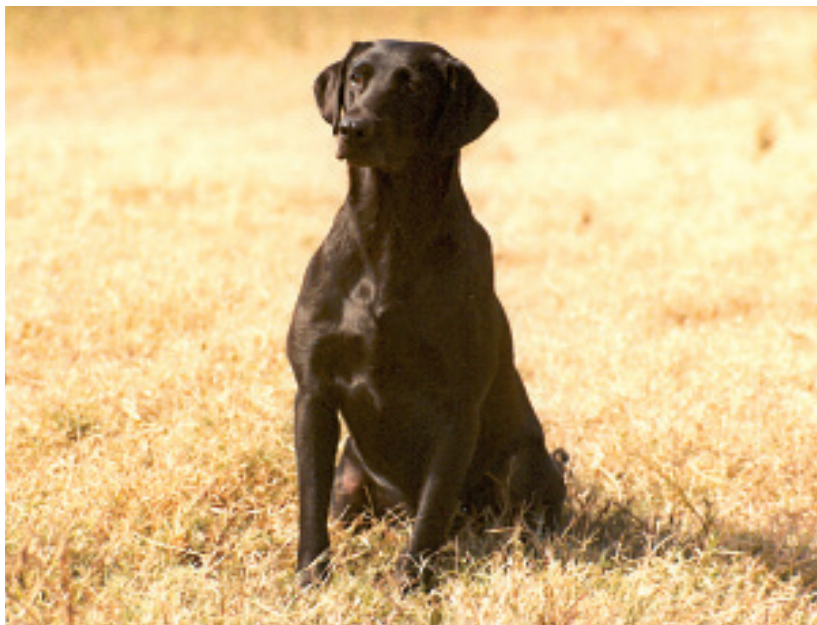
Although Judy claims she has no magic formula for choosing pups, she admits, "I have had very few bad ones," adding, "I don't think it's a matter of selecting a puppy. It's a matter of selecting a litter and doing right by the puppy." She won't admit to having a recipe for 'doing right by the puppy' either.

"It's nothing very revolutionary," she claims, boiling it down to giving the pup "a lot of time." Even though it hasn't always worked out, "I don't like to have more than one at a time." Most of the pups she has raised through the years lived in the house "when they're little." The age at which she moves them into the kennel "varies a lot," depending upon how many she has at the time."

Cody was around ten to twelve weeks old when she got him from Jerry. His registered name, Zip Code, was derived from his callname. "Cody wasn't nutty at all; but, he had plenty of zip!" Being "not nutty was one of his better qualities," Judy adds.

Judy feels that having two such different dogs as Honcho and Cody were "real breaks," rather than a daunting project. She was more than willing to adjust her training to fit the much easier-to-train Cody. She already had experience working concurrently with very different young dogs, her first two who were only a few months apart in age, but, very different from one another. Raider was "extra tough" and Punt was "extra sensitive."

In contrasting her famous sire-son pair, Judy describes Honcho as "more of a handful kind of dog. Cody was more of an intellect." Judy reflects. "They weren't much alike—that's what's so much fun about this game!" she opines. When asked if she could only have one, Cody the son, or Honcho the sire, which would she choose, Judy insists she can't say. "If you had more than one child, would you pick one over the other?" she responds. "Each one had his challenges. It was a great privilege having both. ■



...Introducing the people part of "Retrievers of the Past"

Most people "tend to get hooked on the sport when they get a good dog," Judy Weikel Aycock believes. "I was fortunate in having two good dogs," she says, referring to Cody and his sire Honcho.

Cody was trained exclusively by Judy, under Rex's guidance. She credits Rex's tutelage and expertise in training dogs of "different temperaments" as being invaluable to her success. Rex taught her that being "flexible and adapting are very important parts in how to train a dog. I had the unbelievable advantage of having Rex on a daily basis to hold my hand."

Judy actually had more than "two good dogs," by most people's standards. FC-AFC Castlebay's Trumarc Sprinter earned High Point Open status in 1980. She then repeated the feat with Cody in 1987. Another dog of Judy's who achieved stellar success is FC-AFC Trumarc's Lean Cuisine, 'Kweezy.'

Judy was an advocate of the electronic collar in retriever training since the beginning, which, she points out, is a natural result of working with Rex, "the founding father of the e-collar."

In addition to the accolades given Rex, Judy also credits professional trainer Danny Farmer and her ex-husband Ed Aycock for her success. When they were running different circuits, there were times that Danny ran Cody, and he was successful with him. Judy and Danny live about five hours apart from one another; but, they still do train together occasionally. Ed's role was that he "threw a lot of birds." And, his profession as a vet was instrumental with regard to both Cody and Honcho, says Judy. Cody contracted Parvo at a young age when not much was known about the disease.

Judy still is active in the field trial world under the Trumarc kennel name, although she doesn't travel as much as in the past. She presently has five Labs, a couple of which are co-owned, and a Whippet. Judy refers to herself as "on her own," and lives in Denton, Texas. She and professional trainer Danny Farmer have collaborated to produce training videos and conduct joint seminars under the business name Vinmarc, a combination of Danny's Vinwood Kennels and Judy's Trumarc kennel names.

In many years of her successful career, Cody stands out as "a pleasure to be around, a good companion and competitor, and trouble free." He also stood out for one other reason: Judy used to offer peanuts to her dogs, all of whom but Cody would eat them whole. "I've never had a dog who could shell peanuts like he could!"