

# Retrievers of the Past...

By Joule Charney

## FC-AFC Glengarven's Mik

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– MIK WAS  
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”

THE 8th HIGHEST SCORING retriever of all time is Glengarven's Mik, with 353 combined points. This accomplishment is even more spectacular when put into a timeline perspective of the Top 30 High-Scoring Dogs of All Time. Mik was born in 1959 and his birthdate is the third oldest on the list. He is the youngest of the four dogs of the 1960s, including the only National winner of that decade, 1967-1968 NAFC, 1968 NFC Super Chief, whose combined point total is only 1.5 points higher.

Mik qualified for six National Opens, seven National Amateurs and was a Finalist in 1964, 1967, 1968 and 1969. He also reportedly competed in the 1962 Canadian National. Mik was a Double Header winner in 1965. His last points were earned in 1970, resulting in career totals of 120 Open and 233 Amateur points. From a points perspective, Mik's 353 places him behind only one dog with more than 500 points, the highest scoring dog of all time, 1972 and 1975 NAFC-FC-CNFC River Oaks Corky, the three dogs with 400 to 500 points, and three of the dogs with 300 to 400 points.

Mik was inducted into the Retriever Hall of Fame in 1993. He had only limited breedings and no titled offspring. Mik was bred by J.H. Jones. His most distinguished close ancestor was his paternal grandsire, CNFC-FC-AFC Yankee Clipper Of Reo Raj. Notable dogs two generations further back are NFC-AFC Marvadel Black Gum and Dual Ch-CFC Little Pierre Of Dear Creek. All three were inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1995.

Mik was owned and handled by Roger Vasselias of Upland Farm, Remsenburg, New York. The dog's original name was Glengarven's



Mik at the 1969 NARC handled by Roger Vasselias

Black Mike, an amalgamation of his sire and dam's names: FC Glengarven's Kim and Gordon's Black Babe. It was changed when Vasselias purchased him, perhaps in an attempt to distinguish callnames. Vasselias concurrently owned and ran FC-AFC Sir Mike of Orchardview, a 2000 Hall of Fame inductee, who was three months younger.

Referring to the 1967 event, "FC-AFC Glengarven's Mik ran an exceptionally fine National Amateur. He was handled on marks in the third and fifth series. The rest of his work was near-perfect and always stylish and pleasant to watch," wrote James Lamb Free, in *Training Your Retriever: The Classic Work in its Field*.

"Mik was exceptional in the 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th Series" of the 1968 NARC, according to *Retriever Field Trial News*. "This dog was always a contender."

A funny tale about Vasselias, entitled "Maybe the Judge Can

Help,” was told by one of the judges, Robert N. Wolfe, regarding a trial he judged with Mac Filson. The incident, which occurred on Long Island in 1969, was revealed in *The Official Book of the Labrador Retriever*, published by The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. “The early story of a nor-easter was blowing across the South. We were concerned of the approaching storm. The test was a land blind.

“Roger Vasselais was handling one of his fine Labs. The dog chose to hunt the bird without Roger’s help, so we asked Roger to pick him up. Roger blew many whistles without response. Perhaps showing more anxiety than needed, I sharply asked him to please get the dog under control. He gently hung his whistle lanyard around my neck and said politely, ‘I’ve done my best, perhaps you would like to try it for awhile.’”

During the 1969 National Amateur, Mik’s “overall work was very good, until the 10th series, where he required handling on his 2nd mark of the trial,” reported RFTN. “In strong contention until the last bird of the trial, this dog, even at nearly 10 years of age, proved his greatness of heart.” ■

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## FC-AFC GLENGARVEN'S MIK

OPEN	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	TOTAL:
<b>Starts</b>	7	26	23	23	28	28	23	20	7	<b>185</b>
<b>First</b>	1	0	3	3	3	1	4	1	0	<b>16</b>
<b>Second</b>	0	0	1	0	2	3	2	1	0	<b>9</b>
<b>Third</b>	1	2	1	1	3	1	0	1	0	<b>9</b>
<b>Fourth</b>	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	<b>6</b>
<b>Places</b>	2	3	7	4	9	6	7	3	0	<b>40</b>
<b>Jams</b>	1	0	0	4	4	8	5	3	?	<b>25</b>
<b># Finished</b>	3	3	7	8	13	14	12	6	?	<b>65</b>
<b>% Finished</b>	43%	12%	30%	35%	46%	50%	52%	30%	??	<b>36%</b>
<b>Open Points</b>	6.0	2.5	20.0	16.0	24.5	15.5	26.5	9.0	0.0	<b>120.0</b>
<b>Cumulative Pts</b>	6.0	8.5	28.5	44.5	69.0	84.5	111.0	120.0	120.0	<b>120.0</b>
AMATEUR	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	TOTAL:
<b>Starts</b>	7	26	23	23	27	28	24	19	7	<b>184</b>
<b>First</b>	0	6	2	3	5	5	6	4	0	<b>31</b>
<b>Second</b>	0	3	3	2	6	1	2	0	1	<b>18</b>
<b>Third</b>	0	0	3	1	4	3	4	0	0	<b>15</b>
<b>Fourth</b>	0	2	2	3	1	4	3	1	1	<b>17</b>
<b>Places</b>	0	11	10	9	16	13	15	5	2	<b>81</b>
<b>Jams</b>	?	0	0	7	1	5	2	6	1	<b>22</b>
<b># Finished</b>	?	11	10	16	17	18	17	11	3	<b>103</b>
<b>% Finished</b>	??	42%	43%	70%	63%	64%	71%	58%	43%	<b>56%</b>
<b>Amateur Points</b>	0.0	40.0	23.0	23.5	47.5	33.5	41.5	20.5	3.5	<b>233.0</b>
<b>Cumulative Pts</b>	0.0	40.0	63.0	86.5	134.0	167.5	209.0	229.5	233.0	<b>233.0</b>
ALL-AGE	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	TOTAL:
<b>All Age By Year</b>	6.0	42.5	43.0	39.5	72.0	49.0	68.0	29.5	3.5	<b>353.0</b>
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	6.0	48.5	91.5	131.0	203.0	252.0	320.0	349.5	353.0	<b>353.0</b>

Owner: Roger Vasselais  
 Birthdate: 8/23/59  
 Not on Derby List

Avg. Open Points per year: 13  
 Avg. Amateur pts per year: 26  
 Avg. All-Age pts per year: 39

From "Retriever Field Trial Statistics 1941-1995," by Sue Reynolds.