

Retrievers of the Past...

By Joule Charney

FC-AFC Hiwood Piper

“

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~ Sue Reynolds

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WHEN ATTEMPTING TO FIND THE BEST, we often hear the term ‘separation.’ What ‘separates’ the top contenders? In the retriever field trial world, it can be easy to get lost in statistics, and essentially impossible to compare dogs based on the same set of factors ...

But, then there are dogs with such stellar credentials, they do stand out from among all the rest. FC-AFC Hiwood Piper is one of those retrievers. Even retriever history statistician Sue Reynolds, who has published statistics on the best of the best, could not resist adding “a couple of comments about Highwood Piper” to his stats chart, and they are doozies!

In The Beginning ...

“Roy McFall had a dog named Lady Roxanne of Muldoon who he wanted to breed of 1955 NFC-AFC-CFC Cork of Oakwood Lane,” explains Bon Mallari, retriever history aficionado and a friend of “Piper’s” late owners, Roy and his wife Josephine (Jo). “However, “Cork” was not available at the time. So, Roy bred Roxanne to 1961+1963 NFC-AFC-CNFC Del-Tone Colvin, Cork’s son.



Roy McFall and “Piper”, 1st Open Tacoma Retriever Club, April 1975

One pup out of the litter became the cornerstone of his entire line, FC-AFC Hiwood Stormy of Alaska. Roy bred “Stormy” to Catcher In The Sedge in 1970, resulting in Piper’s litter.”

Roy and Jo adopted the kennel name ‘Hiwood,’ which was one of the breeding kennels that have “consistently produced competitive Labradors,” according to *The Official Book of the Labrador Retriever*, a publication of The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.

In addition to Stormy, the name ‘Hiwood’ appears further back in Piper’s lineage on his sire’s side. Going back six generations through Del-Tone Colvin, then Cork of Oakwood Lane, FC-(English) FTCH Hiwood Mike appears. Highwood Risk, appears seven generations back. Hiwood Risk was out of Hiwood D’Arcy and Hiwood Betty, and he also appears in their generation. Nine generations back is Hiwood Chance, born in 1928, Hiwood Betty’s dam.

On his dam’s side, Cork Of Oakwood Lane appears twice, four generations back. Dual Ch CFC Little Pierre Of Deer Creek appears twice, seven generations back. He is the product of Hiwood Mike and Tar of Arden, who was sired by Hiwood Risk, and winner of the 1941 Field and Stream trophy, the precursor to the NFC title.

Hiwood Chance was owned by Mrs. Hill Wood, who also is known as Lady Hill Wood. *The Official Book* states, “The earliest date in his pedigree is 1872 and there is one break in

FC-AFC HIWOOD PIPER

OPEN	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	TOTAL:
Starts	9	12	13	15	22	15	4	90
First	1	3	2	2	6	3	1	18
Second	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	15
Third	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	6
Fourth	0	0	0	2	3	3	0	8
Places	4	6	7	6	11	8	3	45
Jams	1	0	2	7	5	3	0	18
# Finished	5	6	9	13	16	11	3	63
% Finished	56%	50%	69%	87%	73%	73%	75%	70%
Open Points	12.0	22.0	25.0	17.0	37.5	22.5	9.0	145.0
Cumulative Pts	12.0	34.0	59.0	76.0	113.5	136.0	145.0	145.0

AMATEUR	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	TOTAL:
Starts	14	10	13	15	23	16	4	95
First	3	4	5	4	10	6	0	32
Second	1	2	2	3	2	2	0	12
Third	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	5
Fourth	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Places	5	7	7	9	13	10	1	52
Jams	1	0	3	4	5	2	2	17
# Finished	6	7	10	13	18	12	3	69
% Finished	43%	70%	77%	87%	78%	75%	75%	73%
Amateur Points	19.0	27.0	31.0	30.5	56.5	38.0	0.5	202.5
Cumulative Pts	19.0	46.0	77.0	107.5	164.0	202.0	202.5	202.5

ALL-AGE	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	TOTAL:
All Age By Year	31.0	49.0	56.0	47.5	94.0	60.5	9.5	347.5
Cumulative Total	31.0	80.0	136.0	183.5	277.5	338.0	347.5	347.5

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

OWNER: R. & J. McFALL
 BIRTHDATE 8/7/70
 19 DERBY POINTS

Average Open points per year: 21
 Average Amateur points per year: 29
 Average All-Age points per year: 50

the seventh generation, and one part goes back 15 generations."

"Roy was a very astute breeder," Bon continues. He really studied bloodlines extensively. He always looked for traits from the outside that he could bring in to enhance his line. He wasn't all about Hiwood. He also demanded that the dog be esthetically pleasing. He didn't want an ugly dog. I couldn't tell you what he looked for; but, I can tell you that all his dogs were good-looking dogs."

"I only saw Piper a couple of times, when he was in his prime; but, he was a big, muscular dog. Piper really didn't have any weaknesses. He was an outstanding marker, and an outstanding lining dog. Piper could do it all, even though there were myths to the contrary. Piper was just a consistently fine dog. Roy was an astute handler in his own right, and a perennial Finalist at the Nationals."

The Highs of Hiwood Piper ...

Piper's most outstanding year was 1977. "Piper's 1977 trial record will never be equaled. Never," Bon emphatically believes. "He won sixteen trials, six Open and ten Amateur. NAFC-FC Kannonball Kate had 17 runner-up placings in the Amateur, and half of those were to Piper. "Kate" was the High Point Amateur dog in 1976, by half a point. She

had 31. Piper had 30.5. In 1977, Piper had 56.5 Amateur points and Kate had 48. In the Open in that year, Piper had 37.5 to lead the country, and the runner-up was Kate with 35. In 1978, Piper again was High Amateur Dog, with 38 points, and runner-up was Kate with 37.5." Kate, who was born in 1972, ended her career with 410.5 points, ranking her as the 4th highest scoring retriever of all time.

"Piper finished (meaning he got a ribbon) seventy percent of the Opens he ran in his life, and seventy-three percent of all Amateur stakes he entered," comments Sue Reynolds. "I haven't calculated every dog in history, but this is the highest of any dog I have ever done lifetime statistics on – and I've done most of the top dogs in history!"

"Piper earned 1.9 points per start in his lifetime," Sue continues. "This is also the highest of all dogs I've done lifetime statistics on. Again, that is really high. Note, this does not include many great dogs in the past twenty years that I have not yet done charts on; but, I'm sure it will still be near the top, if not still the top. And, though Piper competed in Alaska, which has the smallest field trials, he also came down to the Lower 48 and won a lot of trials there."

Sue arrived at the 1.9 points per start figure by taking Piper's 347.5 All-Age points and dividing them by his 185 starts. In Amateur stakes,

Retrievers of the Past

Piper had 202.5 points from 95 starts, resulting in an average of 2.1 points per start. In the Open, he had 145 points from 90 starts, which gave him a 1.6 average.

His 347.5 All-Age points make Piper the 10th highest scoring retriever of all time. He was inducted into the Retriever Hall of Fame in 1993.

Double-Doubles ...

Piper was a member of the illusive and exclusive Double Headers Club. What is even more significant is that he managed to win four double headers in two consecutive years. He was one of only eleven dogs winning double headers in 1977, in which he won two, an accomplishment reached by only two other dogs, Kannonball Kate and Dessa's Willie-B-Good. In 1978, Piper won another two double headers. In that year, he was one of only nine dogs to win double headers, and the only one to win twice. Euroclydon won three that year.

While researching Piper's double header status, the question emerged... Did any dogs besides Piper win multiple double headers in more than one year? This led to an analysis on a broader historical scale. A chronological list of the dogs' names can be found on retrievernews.com, in the Archives and was also published recently in the June 2016 issue of Retriever News in the feature "Outstanding in the Field."

During the sixty-four years depicted, there are only two dogs who won two double headers per year in more than one year. One was Piper. The other was NFC-AFC Doloboran's Smoke Tail (callname "Smoke"), in 1957 and 1959. Thus, Piper is the only dog in history to win two double headers *in two consecutive years*. Now, we know.



Roy McFall and "Piper," 1976

There certainly are some other super stellar accomplishments that jump out when viewing these lists. For instance, only one dog ever won four double headers in the same year – FC-AFC-CFC-CAFC Upon The Wings Of An Answered Prayer, in 2014. Only three dogs ever won three double headers in the same year – NFC-NAFC-2xCNFC Wanapum Dart's Dandy in 1976, NFC-AFC Euroclydon in 1978, and NAFC-FC Trumarc's Zip Code in 1983. There were twenty-two instances in which dogs won two double headers in the same year. The number of dogs to do so is twenty, after accounting for Piper and Smoke's two years of two double header wins each. All in all, there have been only 353 double header wins, which averages to only 5.5 per year.

What is not evident by perusing the chart is the total number of double headers won by dogs who won one, or more, in any given year. Piper does not fit into this category; however, Smoke does. In addition to his two double header wins in 1957 and 1959, Smoke won a double header in 1961. Another example of this category is Wanapum Dart's Dandy, who won double headers in 1973, 1974 and 1978, as well as the three in 1976.

Piper's Progeny

"Piper wasn't bred very much because nobody wanted to send their dog up to Alaska," Bon explains. Initially, there was no AI (artificial insemination). And, later, Roy didn't like AI. He wanted to do all natural breedings."

Piper's progeny is reminiscent of the old "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers ..." tongue twisting nursery rhyme.

Piper's most famous son was Roy's 1982 NAFC-CNFC Piper's Pacer, born in 1978, who also was owned by Roy. He had 347.5 All-Age points and was a 3x National Finalist.

Hiwood Piper's Pacer is the sire of AFC-1988 CNFC Hiwood Piper Pacer's Pic who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1998. Roy owned him until after he won the National Derby Championship, says Bon. He was 1982 High Point Derby Dog, 1986 High Point Open Dog, qualified for eight Nationals and was a 2x Finalist, a double header winner, and earned 140 All-Age points. He sired six FCs and was brother to five FCs.

RETRIEVER FIELD TRIAL NEWS FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1979



FC-AFC-CFC-CAFC HIWOOD PIPER
August 7, 1970 — March 5, 1979

"We Loved Him So."

Mr. and Mrs. Roy McFall
Anchorage, Alaska

Piper's Obituary, 1979 February/March issue of Retriever News

Piper had a total of 13 to 15 titled offspring, according to various records, that also included Dual CH and AFC Hiwood Shadow.

“Piper died at a very young age in a freak training accident.” One of Bon’s brothers, Clint Mallari, M.D., was the breeder of Roy’s last field trial dog, Hiwood Jaguars Piper, born in 2008, whose sire was FC-AFC Hiwood Jaguar MH.

The McFalls, Owners

Officially, Piper’s owner is Mrs. Leroy McFall. “Roy had so many assets, he always listed his Jo as the owner,” says Bon. “He did that with a lot of his dogs. Jo was his #1 birdboy. She also did the puppy care. Roy also participated.”

“There are so many myths about Roy. The biggest was that he couldn’t win outside of his own back yard. He wanted to prove everyone wrong. He wasn’t afraid to take all comers on their grounds. In the fall of 1976, he went to train with Clint and I was there.”

“Roy didn’t train with a collar (e-collar) with Piper. He’d run out there and do an ear pinch. He did use an e-collar the last two years of his life because he couldn’t run out there anymore and developed bad eyesight.”

According to Bon, Roy had somewhat of a bad reputation for the simple reason that he “won so much. He won on the West coast, Del Bay on the East coast, Wisconsin and New Mexico. With only four trials a year in Alaska, and 1400-plus All-Age points, you can do the math. Roy was the all-time leader for All-Age points for any handler.”

There were a lot of people who wanted to try to figure out Roy’s secret to success. There really was no secret, says Bon, other than that he was ‘old school’ and, “Roy admitted he trained each dog differently. I strongly feel that Roy ought to be in the Hall of Fame,” Bon adds.

In his HOF nomination of Roy, William D. (Bill or WD) Connor cites Roy’s 1473.5 All-Age points as a handler and ten double header wins. Bill was the owner-handler of 1972 NFC-AFC Royal’s Moose Moe. The nomination continues, “Contributions to the sport - Roy and his wife, the late Josephine McFall, donated the use of their property at Rainbow Lake for training and trials, and played ambassador and hosts to many visiting judges and participants to the Alaska field trials. Roy has judged numerous All-Age licensed trials. Roy has held numerous positions with the Alaska Retriever Club including Field Trial Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer. Roy has also served on the Game Steward and the Grounds Committee at three different Nationals.” Roy also mentored many people in the retriever game, including Bon’s brother Clint.

According to Bill, Piper’s sire, Stormy earned 43.5 points. “Jaguar” had 54. FC-AFC Hiwood Clincher, who was named after Clint, had 166.5. Other dogs trained by Roy and their points were: FC-AFC Hiwood Kleen Sweep – 183, FC-AFC Hiwood Trooper – 129.5, FC-AFC Hiwood Kelly – 103, FC-AFC All Star’s Jumpin Jenny – 102, FC-AFC Hiwood Delta Dash – 59, FC-AFC Hiwood Shadow – 58.5, AFC Ripple – 30.5, AFC Hiwood Prancer – 32, AFC Hiwood Apache – 24, and FC Hiwood Ticker Tape.

“Roy started his career in Washington, then moved to Alaska. He was a heavy equipment operator and did well in the oil boom,” notes Bon. Roy died in 2012. ■

Tenacular Dogs – Joule Charney

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Piper’s 1977 Trial Record

MONTH & CLUB	OPEN	AMATEUR	DOUBLE HEADER
FEBRUARY			
Southern AZ		1st	
San Diego	2nd	1st	
Phoenix	4th		
MARCH			
Willamette	1st	1st	YES
Samish	1st		
Rogue Valley		1st	
APRIL			
Oregon	1st	2nd	
JUNE			
Big Horn	2nd	1st	
Montana		1st	
JULY			
Alaska	1st	1st	YES
Fairbanks		1st	
AUGUST			
Alaska	4th	2nd	
SEPTEMBER			
W. Montana	1st		
Idaho		1st	
Northwest		1st	
OCTOBER			
Maryland	1st		
Del Bay	4th		
1977 TOTALS			
WINS	6	10	
2nd Placements	2	2	