

2007

Chukar's Big Jake

Chukar's Big Jake, black lab male, by all accounts was a "big dog " in several ways – big in size and stature (over 100 pounds), big in heart and desire to please and big in field performance. Jake was the product of Sal's own breeding between two of his first field trial dog's, Chuck Chukar Chuck and Super Spirit's Spriggy. He was born in 1971. Jake accumulated an impressive 174 ½ points during his field trial career. He qualified for five consecutive National Opens, of which he was a finalist in one, and six consecutive National Amateurs, of which he was a finalist in three. Although he never won a National himself, he sired a National Champion in Trieven Butch of Big Jake. Jake's progeny include several titled dogs.

Sal Gelardi was as dedicated a trainer as you'll find, and barring a 15 year gap to raise his son and partake in other hobbies, he spent most of his adult life training and campaigning retrievers. Jake was a product of Sal's first stint of training and was quite possibly his most talented dog (he trained a couple of retrievers that are currently running in trials that are pretty good, too). Sal passed away on March 12, 2004 – there couldn't be a greater honor to his name than the induction of Jake into the Hall of Fame.

-From the 2008 Inductions to the Field Trial Halls of Fame program