

Dogged pursuit: Canine champ proves its pedigree

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Greenfield

Phil Hinchman of Hancock County and his Boykin spaniel Bessie took first place in Bird Dog World Championship last week.

"Bessie has won many hunting tournaments, but this is the biggest win," Hinchman said.

Bird dog hunts are a race against the clock.

Eager-to-please bird dogs race through fields or into underbrush to flush out the hunters' winged prey.

When Hinchman finds his mark, Bessie races to retrieve it.

The team's winning time was 5 minutes and 25 seconds to flush, shoot and retrieve three birds.

If that was the high point of the competition, which was held in Iowa, the low point was during an early qualifier when Bessie sustained injuries while retrieving a fallen bird.

"For Bessie to get injured and come back to the top was even better," said Hinchman, who has had the 8-year-old Boykin since she was a puppy.



Bessie is one of several Boykin spaniels in Phil Hinchman's kennel. She's also his prize performer. She finished in first place in last week's Bird Dog World Championships. Despite an injury, Bessie posted the best overall time.

Tom Russo /
Daily Reporter



Century damage is irreparable