

IDDHA West Coast Distance Trials La Mirada, CA May 21, 2004

The following was originally posted by Carol Lane Tresan:

As predicted, the IDDHA West Coast Distance Trials lived up to its expectations as the grand finale of the regional qualifying series for the 2004 ESPN Great Outdoor Games Disc Drive competition. The setting was ideal, a beautiful park in La Mirada, California, home to the old Ashley Whippet Southwest Regional and the US Open Freestyle Championship for many years. It was the day before the Ashley Whippet World Finals and the thirty-year anniversary of Alex Stein and Ashley Whippet crashing the Dodger's game, and everyone was celebrating. The weather was perfect, in the 60s and 70s, with just the right amount of wind. Several new IDDHA Distance World records were set, including the Men's Open (broken by the same handler three times!) and the Women's Over 40. Reminding us of Darron Barrus at the East Coast trials, Mark Molnar had a record breaking, competition-winning grand finale throw in the final round. Congratulations to Mark and Falco, the new IDDHA Men's World Record holders and West Coast Distance Trials Champions! They're on their way to the ESPN Great Outdoor Games!

Twenty-two teams signed up for the West Coast Trials. We saw several new faces, and several veterans took to the field as well. Kathy Mills began the record-breaking trend in the first round, crushing the IDDHA Women's Over 40 World Record with an amazing throw of 48.24 meters to her Sonny Boy. I think she's aiming at the Women's Open record next, and the way she throws, she's got a great shot! Congratulations and good luck! Also worthy of mentioning, Kathy was the only female who made the cut to the second round, and she made it with not just one dog, but two!

Also in the first round, Bradley Sattler threw 48.52 meters to his border collie Storm. Did I mention Bradley is a mere 15 years old? If the competition had been scheduled a few months earlier, Bradley would have been only 14, and eligible for the Junior Record. Bradley was by far the youngest competitor, and survived the first cut with two of his three dogs, making it to the second round. Bradley and Storm ended up being ranked number 25 in the IDDHA Distance Rankings, better than half the field! Way to go Bradley!

Joel Zucker and his Labrador Retriever, Bailey entered their first IDDHA competition. After confirming the rules and putting on his game face, Joel and Bailey not only performed some outstanding distance attempts, but also qualified for the ESPN Great Outdoor Games with a 62.2 meter catch in the first round! Congratulations!

Two other competitors also threw their longest ranking throws of the day early and ended up qualifying for the ESPN Great Outdoor Games in the first round. Joseph Jones and his Aussie Kado earned their invitation with a 67.1 meter throw. Tom Clements and Taylor, a rescue border collie, also secured a slot at the GOG, turning in a 60.9 meter throw.

In the second round, Mark Molnar threw 84.18 meters to Bob Evans multiple-time Champion Australian Shepherd, Nick, setting a new Men's Open World Record. Needless to say, Mark made it to the third round with Nick, along with Falco. Other competitors who lasted to the final round were

Joseph Jones with his two Aussies, Kylie and Kado, Greg Tresan with his Baussie Stinger, and Tom Clements with his rescue dog Fiesta. Mark and Nick re-broke their record in the third and final round, with a catch of 88.99 meters. However, also in the third round, on their final throw, it was Eldon McIntire's malligator Falco, a Belgian Malanois, who caught Mark Molnar's incredible record smashing 97.5 meter throw, winning the competition in grand style, setting for the third and final time that day, the new IDDHA Men's Open World Record.

Mark ended up first with Falco (97.5) and second with Nick (88.99). Greg Tresan took third with Stinger, logging a 71.47 meter catch. Joseph Jones and Kylie had the only other catch of the round, snatching fourth place with 53.64 meters. For the complete competition results, as well as the 2004 IDDHA Distance Rankings, please see www.iddha.com.

Now that all of the results from the IDDHA regional Distance Trials are in, we can proudly announce the twelve teams who qualified for the ESPN Great Outdoor Games Disc Drive in Madison, Wisconsin this July! Congratulations to:

Mark Molnar and Falco (owned by Eldon McIntire) 97.5, Winner, West Coast
Darron Barrus and The Mighty Carolina Hurricane (owned by Susan Markham) 82.7, Winner, East Coast
Bryan Plymale and Kaila, 77.42, East Coast
Greg Tresan and Ciela (owned by Theresa Musi), 76.94, East Coast
Tim Geib and Lockeye Razzle (owned by Pam Crawford), 75.87, East Coast
Joseph Jones and Kado, 68.9, West Coast
John Misita and Razzle, 66.5, East Coast
Marcus Wolf and Cato, 63.87, Winner, European
David Sierra and Nevi (owned by Autumn Trainor), 63.85, East Coast
Joel Zucker and Bailey, 62.2, West Coast
Tom Clements and Taylor, 60.9, West Coast
Todd Duncan and Flyin Nash (owned by David Dement), 60, East Coast

Thank you to everyone who made this event a success. Thank you to the judges, Alex Stein, Eldon McIntire, and Sabine Bruns. Thanks to Mark Molnar, Crazy John, Mike Miller, Susan Markham, and everyone else who pitched in.

Thank you to the Ashley Whippet organization (www.ashleywhippet.com) and Discovering the World (www.dtworld.com). Special thanks to our sponsors, PetSafe Training Systems (www.petsafe.net) who provided discs, and Bushnell (www.bushnell.com) for the laser rangefinders. We couldn't have done it without you!

Congratulations everyone!
Carol Lane Tresan