



Sunday, Nov 2nd, 2008 | Knott's Berry Farm - Buena Park, CA

AWI World Championships

Day 2 for the AWI World Championships has come to a close, and it lived up to the competitors expectations in every way. The talent was once again phenomenal, the dogs were killing it, and the support was awesome. Kudos to all those that helped, watched, cheered and enjoyed the performance of the best of the best!

The day began with Freestyle. Ishida and led a tight field that had Lawrence Frederick, Chiba and Kuroda all very close at his heels. The weather was overcast with drizzle, but no spirits were dampened. The first freestyle round went smoothly, and eventually the sun broke through and dried up the field in very short order. The conditions were ideal for a technical showdown in Freestyle! Lawrence and Harley brought it BIG in this round and ended up at the top.

Round 2-Distance-with the top teams seemingly unable to shake one-another in freestyle, many thought the distance round would settle the event. That didn't stop Matt DiAno and Maggie, Ishida and Rusty, and Masao Koshiwa and Gingi from challenging with perfect 17.5 point rounds. The standings shuffled a bit as top a couple of strong teams took a misstep in the distance: Chiba and Gaia and Kuroda with Feel both moved down significantly. Last year's #2, Kouichi Nanba and Rey, took their nearly perfect freestyle round and added 9 points of Distance, closing the gap slightly for them. The round was awesome, with every catch being cheered.

As the grass clippings settled, only 2 teams really had a chance: the Defending Champs, Yoshihiro Ishida and Rusty, and Lawrence Frederick with Harley Davidson. Neither had stepped off their strong freestyle very much all weekend, and they were only separated by less than 1/2 a point.

The Final round of Freestyle saw some awesome routines: Chiba and Gaia showed strong, their 6 in distance forgotten. Local boy Todd Murnan and Bella had what might be the round of a lifetime, with unreal catches and energy that had the crowd cheering very loudly! But all eyes were on the Champs, Rusty and Ishida, and the would-be American usurpers, Lawrence and Harley. Both teams had good routines, easily capable of high scores. But it may have been the long trip from Japan, or a long weekend, eventually Ishida blinked: his freestyle fell off a bit, and the bid to join Ashley, Bouncing Boo and Sam as the only 3-time champs was ended for a year. Lawrence Frederick and Harley brought one more incredible round, only dropping 3 discs. As the shadows grew long, there could be no doubt: Harley Davidson and Lawrence had earned the title of World Champions.

It is always bittersweet to see our friends for the short period of time that we get to at competitions, and the hugs and handshakes were very liberal as the awards ceremony died down. 1 more name will get etched into the Lander Cup base, and for Lawrence Frederick, the quest to become World Champion has finally yielded fruit. Those who have been around the sport for a while know that Lawrence and Aerodynamic were very, very close in 1999, and many, many times after that they were maybe 1 catch away from the title. But a big, happy-go-lucky border collie earned the title this year, and has set the bar very high for those that will try to take it away next year.

Congrats to all the competitors, and we will see you all next year!

AWI 08 Final Results

1st Lawrence Frederick Harley Davidson	198.50 1st Place Trophy + \$1500
2nd Yoshihiro Ishida Rusty	193.00 2nd Place Trophy + \$750
3rd Kouchi Nanba Rey	190.00 3rd Place Trophy+ \$500
4th Lawrence Frederick Easy Rider	189.00
5th Kazunori Chiba Gaia	181.84
6th Masao Kashiwa Ginji	181.50
7th Todd Murnan Bella	180.16
8th Takayuki Muranaka Ken	176.84
9th Hiroaki Kuroda Feel	176.82
10th Chris Sexton Banzai	176.50
11th Makoto Koshimizu Force	175.32
12th Al Erikson George	173.34
13th Matt DiAno Maggie	172.50
14th Kozuhiro Takaki KU	161.18
15th Al Erikson Gracie	160.34

Top Freestyle Score Champion | Lawrence Frederick - 93.00 points - gold medal

Top Distance Score Champion | Masao Kashiwa 17.5 points* - gold medal

*Mr. Kashiwa, Yoshihiro Ishida, and Matt DiAno were all tied with 17.5 points in the distance round on Sunday. The tie breaker went back to Saturday's distance score, in which Mr. Kashiwa was the winner with 15 points.

Judges

Jim Safford- Head Judge, Pasadena, CA
Ed Jakubowski- Main Judge, Salem, CT
Hiroshi Ebihara- AWI Japan Main Judge, Tokyo, Japan
Chuck Middleton- Main Judge, Dallas, TX
Mark Jennings- Main Judge, Houston, TX

Amazing canines leave the crowd wowed!!

Saturday, Nov 1st, 2008-La Mirada, California
AWI World Championships



Day 1 of the AWI World Championships are now complete, and we have had a terrific day here in Sunny SoCal. What? You heard that it rained? ok, well, for a couple minutes, but it was immediately followed by bright SoCal Sunshine.

The competition was intense, with competitors and their dogs putting forth incredible efforts all around. Chris Cabral and Caine left everyone gasping with amazing blind catches...Takayuki Muranaka and Ken displayed speed that was picked up on local radar-simply off the charts with Hustle!!...Hiroaki Kuroda and Feel showed that you can do a pretty nice set of moves with one disc-very very innovative exchanges and throws...Kazunori Chiba and Gaia made our backs hurt with flexibility and speed on throws...Lawrence and BOTH of his top 10 dogs are dropping jaws like bombs with moves no one can duplicate...

All around today, the dogs have been having fun. You can see it in their faces, and drive and and the crowd reactions. This game is about an incredible bond, and it has been celebrated here today in every throw.

We can't wait for the finals at Knott's Berry Farms on Sunday, but we have a nice competitor party to attend between now and then.

Day 1 Standings

top 15

Kazunori Chiba / Gaia	91.16
Lawrence Frederick / Harley Davidson	91.66
Yoshihiro Ishida / Rusty	86.00
Hiroaki Kuroda / Feel	88.34
Makoto Koshimizu / Force	87.34
Lawrence Frederick / Easy Rider	89.50
Al Erikson / George	82.50
Takayuki Muranaka / Ken	79.34
Kouchi Nanba / Rey	86.16
Masao Kashiwa / Ginji	79.66
Chris Sexton / Banzai	79.66
Al Erikson / Gracie	81.34
Matt DiAno / Maggie	81.16
Todd Murnan / Bella	80.66
Kozuhiro Takaki / KU	74.50

AWI | Western Qualifier

Friday, October 31st, 2008

Hero Disc Presents the Ashley Whippet Invitational World Championships
Friday Qualifier



Frightening!!! The level of talent here is scary! The moves are horrifically difficult, as competitors from all over the USA and Japan are trying to get into those last qualifying positions for the official start to the World Championships, which will start Saturday morning in La Mirada, California! Horror! The number of discs that died! The canines are running loose! They have plastic in their sights, and no flying disc is safe! Quite simply, the dogs are moving beyond what was previously thought to be amazing, and have entered the realm of "stupendous"!! The dogs were simply killing it today, with second efforts and stretches that were awesome to behold.

Spooky! Wind is there! then it disappears! Where did it go? Mystery abounds!!! Scary!! The amount of fun we are having? Oh yes! Hero Disc has rolled out the goods and competitors are ready to roll with the weekends' festivities. Saturday at La Mirada, Sunday at Knott's Berry Farms.

*Chris Sexton
Hero Head MC
UFO Director*

The results:

1st Yoshihiro Ishida / Rusty	194.74 + Gold Medal
2nd Kazunori Chiba / Gaia	192.32 + Silver Medal
3rd Lawrence Frederick / Harley Davidson	191.34+ Bronze Medal
4th Makoto Koshimizu / Force	188.4
5th Hiroaki Kuroda / Feel	184
6th Chris Sexton / Banzai	181.64
7th Al Erikson / George	181
8th Kozuhiro Takaki / KU	176
9th Al Erikson / Gracie	89.2
10th Kouchi Nawba / Rey	88.34
11th Todd Murnan / Bella	87.5
12th J.D. Platt / Galaxy	86.66

13th J.D. Platt / Holiday	85.6
14th Joel Zucker / Bailey	84.34
15th Alan Thibodo / Jasper	84.3
16th Yuriko Asano / Ciao	82.84
17th Benny Wong / K.D.	82.34
18th Mike Hanson / Maggey	79.06
19th Mike Miller / RT	76.8
20th Chris Cabral / Ricky	75.3
21st Hino Kazue / Nana	73.66
22nd Kirby (14 yrs old) McIlveen / Sketch	73.56
23rd Chris Cabral / Hurricane	73.54
24th Matt Meiring / Buckaroo	73.06
25th Matt Meiring / Kendall	70.56