**SPIKE - 2021 NGSPA Open Shooting Dog Invitational CHAMPION**

**FORMAT**

The TOP 12 Open Shooting Dogs in the country are invited to the Invitational each year. The format of the trial is like no other in the GSP world. It requires three days of running an hour each. Day one the dogs are drawn randomly. On the second day, the dogs are braced so that the first braces yesterday run last and the last braces run first. No dog has the same brace mate or runs on the same course. The third day the judges call back their top dogs to run again for an hour. The trial is designed to test the bird ability, bid ability, range and the endurance of the best of our breed. After the third day of running, a Champion is named.

**THE RUNNING**

After the three days of running, the judges named **Prairie Wind Evolution’s Primo Re-Creation** “Spike” the 2021 Open Shooting Dog Invitational Champion. Spike was handled by Richard Robertson, Jr., and scouted by owner Keith Richardson.

Spike proved to be an exceptional bird dog and judges were impressed with what they called his “definitive” finds. He pointed with “decisive authority” He used the wind with intelligence quickly identifying old scent and moving on, or slamming on point. He pointed his birds way off and stood with “frozen” intensity through their flight. His nose pointed the way and birds were quickly produced. Relocations were not necessary and there were no NPs (non-productives where no birds could be produced). Handler flushed with aggressive confidence and a number of birds flew back over the dog while he remained motionless. The other call-back dogs all had NPs during the three days, and most had some manners issues.

Spike exhibited great stamina all the way through his very last cast with a big powerful shooting dog race, and a smooth calm connection with his handler requiring no intense hacking and very little scouting. He was never “out of pocket” except while taking a distant edge or being found on point to the front. He had quality limb finds every day. The judges were particularly impressed when near the end of the call-back brace both dogs were seen standing, and during the lengthy approach Spike’s bracemate aggressively self-relocated resulting in frantic riding and “whoaing”, during which Spike remained backing with intensity all the way through the extended flushing process.

When it was all over there was no doubt that Spike had earned the title of Invitational Champion.