

BISS CH BLACKWING SUPERFINE

5-12-2005 – 12-7-2012

By Lenore & Mike Hamilton, Blackwing Labradors

We've all heard it: "Breed the best you have to the best you can, and then hope for the best." Blackwing Superfine, "Big" was a product of that philosophy. He had an unbelievable show record, with Best in Sweepstakes and Best in Specialty Shows on the largest stages in the United States. It was clear to us and everyone ringside that his disposition was special. His worth was also proved in the whelping box many times over, at Blackwing and other kennels. Blackwing Superfine touched our hearts in a way no other dog has.

Ch Blackwing Super Freak, "Freaky" and Ch Blackwing Santee, "Gabe" were both Specialty winners, whose strengths complemented each other very well. Freaky was an Arnold daughter with Ch Kai Den's Water Lily, and Ch Guidelines Master Card on the dam side. Gabe was a Ch Trendmaker Tycoon son out of an Arnold daughter. But this spectacular pairing almost didn't happen. We selected an outside stud dog who was producing well for Freaky's last litter, but that was not meant to be. She was refused because the stud owner required a clearance which was not standard practice at the time her clearances were completed. Rather than start over with clearances at age seven, we bred her to our own dog, Gabe. Big always had the best of both his sire and dam, just as we had hoped.

We live in Arkansas, an area many in the breed considered a wasteland for Labradors. We developed the practice, if and when we had what we thought to be a great Labrador, to always give them a chance to win on the greatest stage in the U.S. with only the best judges.



BISS Ch Blackwing Superfine



Ch Blackwing Santee, Big's sire



Ch Blackwing Super Freak, Big's dam, at 12 years

Big finished exclusively at Specialties, and was BOB from his class several times. With some showing as a Special to top breeder judges, he rapidly developed a reputation in the U.S. He was owner-handled exclusively and never sent out without us. In April 2010 we arrived at Potomac on Thursday evening. On Friday Ch Blackwing Superfine was awarded Best Of Breed at the Spring Potomac Show with an entry of 1,052 Labradors, by judge Winnie Limbourne. She reported, "Dogs are made up of pieces and parts and the better they fit the more correct they are. My BOB went to the black dog Ch Blackwing Superfine. He was really 'on' this day and never had a foot out of place each time I looked at him. He certainly fills the eye. I loved his outline, head, and attitude. I wish him luck in the future and hope he can produce himself. He has what a lot of bitches need." Big was retired from showing after this win.

In 2011 "The Labrador Quarterly" reported that Big was also the Top Producing Sire in 2010, and produced more champion progeny than any other Lab in the U.S. He sired Champions and Grand Champions for breeders across the country, and we were most pleased with what he did for us at home.

At Blackwing his lasting impact included GCh Blackwing Izzy (Big daughter) who was BOB at Piedmont LRC three straight shows. She was Select Bitch at the Spring Potomac in 2011. Izzy was

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Blackwing Superfine, cont'd



Big, BOB at Potomac, 2010



Big, BOB, Charleston KC 2009



BISS GCh Blackwing Izzy, a Big daughter



Big, BOB, Piedmont

Best of Opposite at the 2014 Potomac Spring Show. She was BOB or BOS at 14 Specialties.

Also a son, GCh Blackwing Superslick, "Powers" was Winners Dog and Best of Winners at the Spring Potomac 2014. He was Select Dog at Potomac in 2017. Powers was co-owned and expertly handled by our friend Mike Silva, for a year and a half. Powers was BOB twice at Pawcatuck and at Mid Jersey.

BISS Ch Blackwing Superman, a Big son, received a JAM in 2017 at Potomac. He was BOB from the classes

at Miami Valley LRC 2015 and a Sporting Group 2 at Memphis Kennel Club also from his class.

BISS Ch Wit's End Jacks Or Better At Blackwing was bred by Angela Ewald. A Big son out of the Great Ch Wit's End Windfall Vegas Showgirl, "Jacks" finished exclusively at Specialties. He also has been an excellent producer with 27 titled Labradors and 18 Show Champions to date. At 12 years old he is still doing well.

As Big was used at stud, he produced 18 Show Champions and 23 titled Labradors. He produced a bitch that pro-

duced a long-coated puppy. We were not aware he carried this. Like the red-headed stepchild, he was an outcast and not used much after this. We continued to be thankful for the sons, daughters, and grandkids from him. Raymond Oppenheimer said, "Don't be frightened of breeding from animals that have obvious faults so long as they have compensating virtues. A lack of virtues is far the greatest fault of all."

The greatest thing about Big was his disposition and desire to please each and every day. He always put us first over

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Blackwing Superfine, cont'd



Big, BOB, DFWLRC



Ch Blackwing the Spice is Right, Select Bitch, Potomac, a Big granddaughter

himself through the day he died. If we desired him to turn it on in the show ring he did, if we desired him to care for puppies in the yard he did, if he was needed as a companion in the house or garden he did it, all with grace and dignity.

At Blackwing we plan our breedings, and whelp our pups, raise, nurture, and train them, and handle our own at shows. Rarely do our Labs leave us, except to go to excellent pet homes. There is no doubt Big's claim to greatness was limited by our mode of operation. But the three of us would not have done it any other way. We miss him each day as he lives on in his progeny at Blackwing.

Thank you,
Mike and Lenore



Madilyn after win at DFWLRC with Freaky



BISS GCh Blackwing-Superslick, Select Dog, Potomac a Big son



BISS Ch Blackwing Superman, a Big son, MVLRC BOB