

FLYBALL FANATICS

Keagan

3000 Flyball points – a first again for Keagan!

Keagan “Giftnell Th One and Only” continues to be one of the most successful Flyball dogs in South Africa. He really enjoys running Flyball and has yet again added another “first” to his name becoming the first dog in South Africa to earn 3000 Flyball points. “*Th One & Only*” title, currently the highest Flyball title for any dog in South Africa earning 1500 points, is named after Keagan.

From his first 25 points in September 2006 to a staggering 3009 points achieved on home soil at Birch Acres Dog Training Club on 6 February 2011, Keagan epitomises what Flyball is all about.

According to owner Lynda Coughlan, ‘Keagan’s’ Flyball career is far from over. He fits into any team, can run with any dog and instils confidence and enthusiasm in new dogs.

From one ball player to another ... **‘Breezer’s’ success story**

Joy Knighton-Fitt writes: A year after we lost our Golden Retrievers we acquired a male named ‘*Tao*’. My search for a female took a fervent turn. My son came home from school one day and said: “Mum, I have seen just the type of Golden Retriever we are looking for. Dark caramel, relatively flat coat and lovely rectangular face with a lanky lean build.” The young lady told us that her dog’s name was ‘*Ben*’ and that she had got him from Mark Boucher. I said: “Mark Boucher? So, who is Mark Boucher?” It turned out to be the Protea cricket player and wicket keeper and the young lady was the physiotherapist of the National Cricket team. Mark’s parents had the sire and dam and were taking care of them while he was cricketing.

And so, months later our young caramel coloured puppy arrived from East London. We decided to name her “Mystic Breeze” which became “Breezer” for short. We found a wonderful club where we began socialising and obedience training. It was at the CPDC where we were first introduced to the exciting sport of Flyball. We were a group of four dogs that started together in 2008. By the end of June 2009 we had entered our first Flyball competition. Our team “Greased Lightning” was not very fast but fast enough to run sub-24 seconds most of the time. Breezer earned her Flyball Dog Excellent (FDX) title in October that year and on 22nd November 2009 she became a Flyball Champion. Due to an injury Breezer did not compete in any Flyball competitions for 10 months although later in 2010 became a team member in several make-up teams.

‘Breezer’ is working towards her KUSA Grand Champion

Title for which she still requires 270 points. She is not the fastest Flyball dog but has a passion for Flyball. She runs absolutely solidly with a consistent speed of 5.4 – 5.63 seconds, which means she is a valuable contributor to a sub-24 second team.

‘Breezer’ was a member of the winning Flyball team that competed at the World of Dogs and Cats in Cape Town last year for a team named “RARING TO GO”.



Breezer and Joy.

Photo courtesy Charles Knighton-Pullin

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Northern Areas Top Dog competition

Photo courtesy Melissa Wilson



FLTR Liesl Twyman (Judge) with Team FBI Under Cover: Tracey Lander and 'Sassy', Margie Liebenberg with 'Luqa' and 'Jenga', Natalie Rosner and Oscar and Claire Patterson-Abrolat with 'Mac'.

Luqa-Zee, 'Mac', 'Oscar' and 'Jenga' of Team FBI Under Cover took honours for the second year in a row winning the prestigious NAPC Top Dog event with a best time of 18.62s. Second was Gold Rush Express – 'Troy' (Border Collie), 'Troy' (Aussie), 'Max' and 'Shandy' and third place went to Team FBI S.W.A.T. – 'Pebble', 'Chewbacca', 'Kay-Le'e and 'Rocco'.

Titles

Champions:

'Tyler', "OB CH, PD CH, TD CH, WD CH, FLYBALL CH ITT CH, KUSA NAT PD DOG 2009 & 2010 'BLUE'S TYLER OF CHYANBARA' TDIIIEx, PDEx, ITT5, IPO3" owned by Bobby Claasen;

And not to be outdone, Nick Claasen's 'Quest,' TD CH, WD CH, ITT CH, "OB CH, FB CH PD CH 2008 'CHYANBARA BLUESANDY' PD, TDIII Ex, ITT5 also earned his Flyball champion title.

Th One & Only titles (subject to KUSA ratification):

'Leea', owned by Jean Read obtained her 1500 Flyball points at the Cape Town Kennel Club Championship Show on 30 October 2010.



'Oscar', owned by Natalie Rosner achieved 1500 points at the Transvaal Benevolent Open Show on 23 January 2011. 'Oscar' runs for Team FBI Under Cover.

Flymobile ...

What do you call the team's personalised car? Jacques Botha, Team FBI's "mascot", ball boy, box loader, handler and runner has personalised his car to show his support. The Golf is now known as "The Flymobile" ...

Upcoming events

With 3 Flyball Championship events planned for the Eastern Cape in April and 4 Championship Shows on the KZN May Extravaganza schedule, start planning for some great Flyball events. From the flyball lanes – keep your eye on the BALL!

Liesl Twyman
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Results have not been verified or ratified by KUSA

