

Sports & Leisure

Friday, Sept. 2, 2005



Nicky Snook, flanked by her Australian kelpies Roper and Spur, show off their prizes from the Agility Association of Canada National Championships in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Roper beat out 54 other dogs to win the 26-inch division. Spur finished 18th in the 22-inch division.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Top dog

'Neurotic' Australian kelpie Roper posts top score in his division at national agility championship

He was once afraid of his own shadow, now Roper's a national champion.

The Australian kelpie, owned by Nicky Snook of Georgetown, earned the top score in his division at the recent Agility Association of Canada National Championships in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

"Roper was a very hard dog to work with as he was growing up," Snook said. "As he started to mature, he started to think 'This is fun,' and he wasn't as scared anymore. For a dog that was that was spooky and neurotic, I'm just as proud as punch."

Roper won the 26-inch division with a final score of 570.61, topping the field of 55 dogs by a whopping 35 points.

The competition is made up of three components: standard, where the dog completes obstacles, including jumps, tunnels, and weave poles in order within a specified time; jumping, which is a course that consists of only jumps that the dog must negotiate in the correct order in a specified time; and gambling, where the dog has a certain amount of time in which to do whatever obstacles the handler instructs and accumu-

lates points based on the obstacles completed.

Roper, who finished 13th at nationals last year, had the third highest marks in jumping over two rounds and was sixth in both gambling and standard. What really set Roper apart was his lack of faults, just one, the fewest in the division. Only one other dog had fewer than four.

Snook had two kelpies competing at nationals, with the younger Spur finishing 18th in the 22-inch division. Though not a common breed, Snook loves the kelpies.

"They're so intelligent and so smart," Snook said. "They learn things very quickly and they have memories like elephants. They don't forget."

Roper was fourth after the first day of competition, which included one round of each discipline. But she knew her dog was capable of winning.

"It's always the handler's fault, never the dog's fault, whether we realize it or not," Snook said. "I made some silly mistakes the first day so I thought, let's just have fun."

And Roper did, adding 305 points to his tally to run away with the competition.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Strong first round puts Lapointe in position to win Mid-Amateur

After firing an opening round 67, Mary Ann Lapointe really didn't need any help getting in position to win the Ontario Ladies Mid-Amateur Golf Championship. She got it anyway.

When the second round of the 54-hole tourney at the Bay of Quinte Country Club in Belleville was rained out, it left the field with the daunting task of trying to make up an eight-shot deficit in yester-

See LAPOINTE, pg. 20

 **APPLE**
Auto Glass®

354 Guelph Street, Georgetown

(905) 873-1655

- Truck Accessories
- Upholstery
- Heavy Equipment Glass

NOW FEATURING

novus®
WINDSHIELD REPAIR SYSTEM



MORE THAN JUST AUTO GLASS