

GR NITE CH 'PR' KY River Superman The 2018 UKC Triple Crown Champion

- Allen Gingerich



GR NITE CH 'PR' KY River Superman

DOB July 29, 2013

Sire: CH GR NITE CH 'PR' KY River Batman

Dam: GR NITE CH 'PR' Bad To The Bones Super Fly

Owned by Micah Ayers of McKee, Kentucky

- Winter Classic – 50 points for each cast win. Max 100 points.
- Autumn Oaks – 50 points for a cast win. No points for Grand 16 cast wins. Max 50 points.
- World Championship Zones – 25 points for each cast win. Max 50 points.
- World Championship Finals – 10 points for each cast win. No points for late round Friday. Max 40 points.

The UKC Triple Crown Challenge, sponsored by Black Gold Dog Food, rewards the outstanding coonhound who earns the most Triple Crown points at the UKC Winter Classic, Autumn Oaks and the World Championship. The winner receives \$3,000 and a jacket courtesy of Black Gold and UKC. A dog must have participated in all three events to be eligible for the award.

After the first leg of the Triple Crown, the double cast winners at the Winter Classic held in Batesville, Mississippi, would set the pace for the 2018 Triple Crown Challenge. Four Black & Tans, two Blueticks, two English, one Redbone, five Treeing Walkers, and one X-Bred made up the 16 frontrunners, all tied with 100 Triple Crown points.

Enter the second leg—Autumn Oaks. A Bluetick female of out Texas, GR NITE CH 'PR' Pinecreek Curlee Jane, owned by Jimmy Don Presley, Wesley Martin, and Jim Ballard, had won the Winter Classic, with Randy Norris on the lead strap. (She is now owned by Jimmy Don Presley and Randy Norris.) Randy made

the trip north to Richmond, Indiana, with one goal in mind—a cast win and 50 Triple Crown points. Anything beyond that would be icing on the cake.

Micah Ayers of Kentucky had the same goal in mind when he entered GR NITE CH 'PR' KY River Superman, a Black & Tan that has put him in the winner's circle on several occasions at major events in recent years. Third was a local dog out of Indiana, GR NITE CH 'PR' Late Round Blaze, a Treeing Walker owned by Scott Calihan, Brian Baxter and Tyler Calihan. All three hounds left Autumn Oaks with the mission accomplished.

With the field now narrowed to three, the World Championship would make up the third and final leg of the Triple Crown Challenge. The owners of Blaze really had no intentions of running for the gold until just before Oaks when they decided they better try to get Blaze qualified for the World Hunt just in case they might be in the running after Oaks. Good idea. Otherwise, their run would have ended.

The first challenge at the World Championship was to get through the zones. Jane was entered in the Paris, Texas, zone, where she won her cast on Friday night. Blaze was unsuccessful on either night of the zones in Reading, Michigan, ending his run for the Triple Crown. Superman won his cast on Friday night at Marshall, Illinois, keeping pace with Jane step-for-step. On Saturday night at the zones, Superman and Ayers again won their cast and advanced to the World Finals. Jane's Friday night single cast-win score also advanced her to the Finals, albeit 25 points in the rears to the leader, Superman.

This isn't the first time this challenge came down to the wire at the Finals. The points system is set up to where this generally is, in fact, the case. It's what makes the Triple Crown exciting. On the first night of the Finals you could tell that both handlers, Micah Ayers and Randy Norris, knew exactly where they stood and the scenarios that would need to play out in order for each of them to win the challenge. Two good guys with two nice hounds; what more could you ask for?

Randy Norris was well aware that the scenario he needed to play out was Superman not winning his first-round cast and Jane winning her Thursday and Friday night casts. If Superman won his cast Thursday, but not beyond that, it meant that Jane would need to win the World Hunt. Tall order, no doubt, but one he had a lot of faith his Blue gyp could handle with a little luck on their side. As fate would have it, after that first round Superman's run at the World title came to an end and Jane won her cast.

Although now still five points behind Superman, it seemed like the momentum shifted. All Micah Ayers could do was sit back and watch the rest of the World Hunt unfold. It's fair to say that his interest was drawn to Friday nights Cast #1. As it turned out, Jane came up short on Friday night, but she did make her presence known with an outstanding run and a 12th finish in the World Hunt.

Congratulations, to Micah Ayers on his accomplishment with GR NITE CH 'PR' KY River Superman – the 2018 UKC Triple Crown Champion. They join the following elite group of hounds and owners who have won this award.

- **2000** GR NITE CH 'PR' Blue River Droop Jr., Bluetick male owned by Steve Burkholder & Jerry McAvoy of Mt. Gilead, Ohio
- **2001** NITE CH GR CH 'PR' Thompsons Hillbilly Pepper, English female owned by Chad Butcher or Dean Thompson of Brookville, Indiana
- **2002** GR CH GR NITE CH 'PR' Black Creek Doc, Treeing Walker male owned by Kevin Phillips & B.T. Love of Columbus, Georgia
- **2003** GR NITE CH 'PR' Bingo's Northern Blue Dancer, Bluetick male owned by Ron Taylor of Gosport, Indiana
- **2004** GR NITE CH CH 'PR' Green Rough River Bobbie Jo Angel, Black & Tan female owned by Ted Froderman of Brazil, Indiana
- **2005** GR NITE CH 'PR' Vickers Hawks Red Storm, Redbone male owned by Shane Marcyes of Eagle Bend, Minnesota
- **2006** CH GR NITE CH 'PR' Mead's Blue Jet 8, Bluetick male owned by Danny Glista of Berlin Center, Ohio, or Ed Mead of Albion, Michigan
- **2007** CH GR NITE CH 'PR' Doc's Honest Abe, Treeing Walker male owned by Kevin Phillips & B.T. Love of Columbus, Georgia
- **2008** CH GR NITE CH 'PR' Boogar Hollow Mojo, Treeing Walker male owned by Robert Raxter of Brevard, North Carolina
- **2009** CH GR NITE CH 'PR' Boogar Hollow Mojo, Treeing Walker male owned by Robert Raxter or Scott Engle of Hillsboro, Ohio
- **2010** GR NITE CH GR CH 'PR' Deanwoods Hali, Treeing Walker male owned by Logan or Mollie Burdwell of Buena Vista, Georgia
- **2011** GR CH GR NITE CH 'PR' R&R's Cutter Cain, Treeing Walker male owned by William or Doug Read of Austin, Kentucky
- **2012** GR CH GR NITE CH 'PR' Hailes Red River, English male owned by Jody or Penny Jessup of Rural Hall, North Carolina
- **2013** GR NITE CH GR CH 'PR' Bad To The Bones Black Hawk, Black & Tan male owned by Dean Miller or Timothy Waters of Berlin, Ohio
- **2014** GR NITE CH 'PR' Barton's Craz Albany, English female owned by Jacob Barton of Middlesboro, Kentucky
- **2015** GR CH GR NITE CH 'PR' Hamlins Davie Crocket HTX, Bluetick male owned by Eddie Harp & Larry Hamlin of Stigler, Oklahoma
- **2016** GR NITE CH 'PR' Handsome Tucker, Treeing Walker male owned by Nick Brady, Phil Peterson of Buckhannon, West Virginia
- **2017** GR CH GR NITE CH 'PR' White Oak Wipeout Jim, Treeing Walker male owned by Wesley Hastings, Johnny Brown of Cullman, Alabama
- **2018** GR NITE CH 'PR' KY River Superman, Black & Tan male owned by Micah Ayers of McKee, Kentucky

Want to try your hand at the 2019 Triple Crown?

Here's how it works!

The United Kennel Club Triple Crown Challenge, sponsored by Black Gold Premium Dog Food, acknowledges and rewards outstanding coonhounds at the three largest UKC Nite Hunts. The UKC Triple Crown recognizes coonhound excellence through consistency and the ability to adapt to changing cover, terrain and conditions. The hound that accumulates the most Triple Crown points in the three UKC Triple Crown events - Winter Classic, Autumn Oaks and the Coonhound World Championship - is declared the winner.

1. Dogs must compete at all three United Kennel Club Triple Crown events to be eligible. These events are Autumn Oaks, Coonhound World Championship, and Winter Classic.

2. Triple Crown Points will be awarded to all plus point cast winners.

3. Triple Crown Points will be awarded at the following hunts in the following manner. Winter Classic: Dogs receive 50 Triple Crown Points each night for a plus point cast win. Maximum point total: 100. Autumn Oaks: Dogs receive 50 Triple Crown Points for a plus point cast win. Maximum point total: 50. Coonhound World Championship: Dogs receive 25 Triple Crown Points for each plus point cast win at the Zone Semi-Finals. Additionally, dogs will receive 10 Triple Crown Points for each plus point cast win at the World Finals except Round 4, if hunted. Maximum point total: 90.

4. In the event of a tie, the United Kennel Club Triple Crown winner will be determined in the following manner:

Tiebreaker #1: All scorecards will be audited and the highest combined total score will be declared the United Kennel Club Triple Crown winner. Total score is the sum of the dogs' plus point cast wins. The two (2) highest plus point cast wins from the World Championship will be counted. Only the top five plus point cast wins will be used in a tiebreaker (1 Autumn Oaks, 2 UKC World Championship, 3 UKC Winter Classic).

Tiebreaker #2: All ties remaining after using tiebreaker #1 will be resolved in accordance with United Kennel Club Official Nite Hunt Honor Rules, Section 15, Ties, which reads as follows. All ties to be broken for placement by comparing scores in the following order: (a) Dog that has the least number of minus points. (b) If still a tie, dog that has the most plus tree points. (c) If still a tie, dog that has the most plus strike points. (d) If still a tie, dog that has the most circled tree points. (e) If still a tie, dog that has the most circled strike points. (f) If still a tie, dogs involved will hunt in one-hour intervals until tie is broken, or flip a coin if all parties agree.