

Sports



Hunting days

THE UNITED FIELD Trialer's Association hosted its first National Field Trials here in Lavonia recently. For details on how local hunters fared, turn to page 3B



BILL BICKERT, left, along with Bomber took top honors in the field trials. Center, B.J. Carroll and Buck were named reserve champions and Mark "Moe" Vaughn along with Buddy captured third place.

Local hunters host first field trials

104 UFTA attend inaugural event

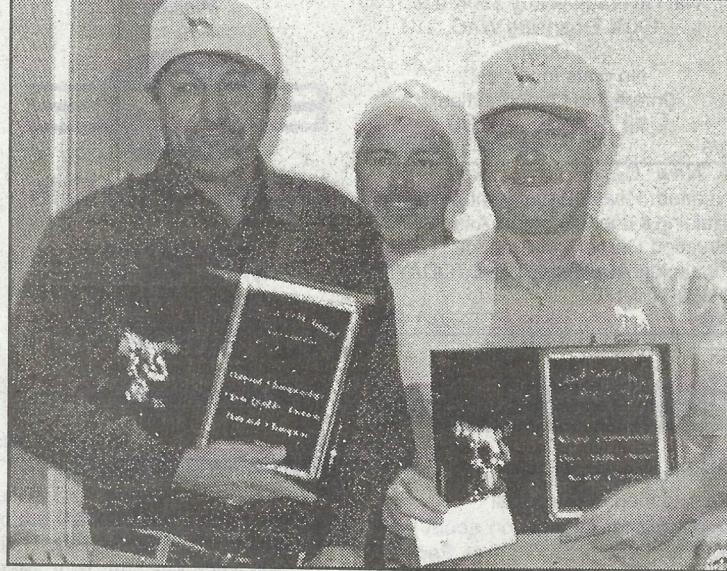
The newly formed United Field Trialer's Association (UFTA), consisting of competitive Bird Dog hunters from the southeast, participated in its first National Field Trial recently.

And local hunters held the home court advantage, so to speak, as the field trials were held at Cedar Hill Hunting Preserve in Lavonia.

UFTA consists of 104 members from Kentucky, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida and Indiana.

To qualify for the field trial, hunters had to have entered at least three sanctioned hunts within the past year. The field of hunters was divided into two divisions, open and doubles. The double's division was held on Wednesday, followed by the open division competition on Thursday and Friday with the finals coming on Sunday.

Scoring in the championship, hunters and their dogs walked the field, once the dog retrieves the scent of the quail, it is required to point for three seconds. The hunter calls "point" and flushes the bird. The hunter then fires at the bird and is only allowed to move one foot. Hunters and their dogs receive five points for a partial retrieval and 10 points for a full retrieval.



DOUBLES WINNERS Hooter Burkhead and Greg Medley captured the doubles championship. They are pictured above with David Watts.



RAY HAMMONDS, left, representing the state of Kentucky presented Ed Murdock with a plaque in appreciation of Cedar Hill Hunting Preserve hosting the first UFTA national championship.

Winners of the inaugural event are as follows:

Doubles: 3rd) Quintin Wiseman with A.P. and Stacey Hall with Stormy; 2nd) (reserve champions) Frank Arnau with Rocky and Stacey Hall with Hawk; 1st) (national champions) Greg Medley with Dusty and Hooter Burkhead with Waylon.

Singles: 10th) Ed Murdock and Ghost (handled by John

Murdock); 9th) Travis Lunsford and Cody; 8th) William Sandy Redmon and Spike; 7th) Mike Gunning and Spud; 6th) Paul "Face" Vaughn and Little Bitty; 5th) Ed Murdock and Lacey (handled by B.J. Carroll); 4th) Travis Lunsford and Liz; 3rd) Mark "Moe" Vaughn and Buddy; 2nd) B.J. Carroll and Buck; and 1) Bill Bickert and Bomber.