



Smokin Hot Ruger's first show, 6 months old. Overall Grand 2 of the 3 shows that weekend



10 months old, Ada, Oklahoma

Smokin' Hot Ruger: A LEGEND IN THE MAKING

By Robyn Scherer, M.Agr.

GOOD BUCKS can be hard to find, and great buck are a once-in-a-lifetime gift. CBS Broken S Smokin Hot Ruger is set to be one of those great bucks, even if his life was cut short. At just over four years old, this buck is already in the top five on the all time high point earning bucks in ABGA history, and his legacy is far from over.

Born on June 2, 2009, Smokin Hot Ruger was always something special, but his potential was unknown. The son of CSB Ruger Reloaded and RRD Smokin Hot, he was bred by Dr. Mark Watkins and Mr. Ervin Chavana.

Smokin Hot Ruger was put up for sale, and Cecil Swepton, owner of Broken S Ranch, Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, knew he had to have him. He came into Swepton's life when he was six months old, and the day that Swepton met him was one he will never forget.

"When I first saw him, I knew then he was special. He was better than I thought he would be. I immediately felt like he was really extraordinary," said Swepton.

Swepton purchased the young Smokin Hot Ruger after a conversation and a photograph, and has never regretted that decision.

"I asked Dr. Watkins a few questions and he answered them, so I went ahead and made a commitment to buying him. Dr. Watkins told me you haven't even seen him yet. I told him that I knew he was honest and was fine with that," Swepton explained.

The weekend that Smokin Hot Ruger came to his new home was also his first show weekend. "The day after we brought him back to Oklahoma, we showed him at Ada, OK, and he was overall grand champion in two of

the three shows we had him in at just six months and two days old," he said.

That was just the start of his successful show career. He was shown a total of 17 times, a 13-time overall grand champion and two-time overall reserve grand champion.

Swepton's wife, Sharon, was his handler throughout his career. "He was one of the easiest goats to show that we have ever owned. He always had a nice disposition, and wasn't mean. I could set him up, and he would stand there. He was such a pleasure to show," she said.

She added, "He was truly an amazing animal, and I was so proud to be able to show him. I couldn't ask for anything better."

All-in-all, Smokin Hot Ruger earned 232 individual show points. However, his legacy has not been built in himself, but through his progeny.

"Once we saw kids hit the ground we knew he was something great," stated Cecil Swepton.

At the end of November 2013, the buck has accumulated 3,738 ennoblement points, with an additional 1,337 unassigned points. This ranks him fifth overall, and as more progeny are shown and inspected, that number is expected to rise.

"It would move him even higher if we could get everyone to get the offspring with points to get them inspected. The bucks that are ahead of them, you aren't seeing very many kids from those bucks. Smokin Hot has several kids on the ground and ones that are coming that will make the show ring. I expect that he will come to the top," said



Swepton. Some of his most famous progeny came from Ron Dilley's "super flush," including the 2012 National Grand Champion, RDBG Izzy. "All those kids that came from that flush were good ones," he said. He has a total of 312 registered kids as of 11/26. Of those 312 kids, 116 have show points.

"He has been one of the best show prospect producers in all time," said Swepton.

Part of what made him so good was his consistency, and his ability to pass those qualities on to his kids. "He was really out on the corners, and exceptionally clean fronted. He had a very pretty head, with a nice curl from nose to horn set. When you looked at him from any angle he wowed you," Swepton explained.

He continued, "He was loaded from one end to the other with hard muscle. His chest floor - you couldn't believe how wide he was. In his prime he always wowed."

The clean front, clean chest floor, big hip and pretty head are traits that are easy to recognize in his progeny. "Once you have seen kids out of him you could pick them out, as he just stamped them one by one after the same pattern," he said.

He continued, "I think that some of the things that he showed in his kids will be very helpful long term for the Boer goat industry. He was one of the primary ones you could depend on for clean fronts, and he was very good in producing real feminine, pretty headed doe kids and that has also continued on through his sons and daughters. His kids have consistently bigger hips than anything in the breed, and that has carried on as well."

Good seedstock genetics are important to the advancement of the Boer goat breed, and that is exactly where Smokin Hot Ruger excelled. "One of his best traits is that he established good breeding stock. On a whole they tend to do pretty well, are pretty worm resistant and produce those traits that he had," stated Swepton.

Unfortunately, this fall, the Sweptons noticed a change in the buck and couldn't stabilize him, so they brought in experts from Oklahoma State University, as well as Dr. Braden Benson, a veterinarian from

Texas. Tests after tests were run, and nothing could be found wrong. Dr. Benson suspected a blockage, and post mortem tests showed he was correct.

"He had a tumor right where the rumen funnels into the GI track, and it was just big enough to close that. It was a freak thing that happened, to be in that exact spot," explained Swepton.

The family considered exploratory surgery, but the chances of the buck making it through that were slim. It was a heartbreaking, unfortunate set of events.

"We feel very blessed to have had him as long as we did. He propelled our program forward by leaps and bounds, and he did that for other people too," said Swepton.

All together, Smokin Hot Ruger has sired six national champions, including one National Grand Champion Fullblood Doe, one National Reserve Champion Percentage Doe, two JABGA National Reserve Champion Fullblood Does, one National Senior Division Grand Champion Buck and one National Senior Division Reserve Champion Buck.

He was named the National Premier Sire at the 2012 and the 2013 National Shows. In order to win this award, a buck's progeny must accumulate more show points at the National Show than another other buck in the nation.

"It was pretty emotional for us to win that award. To have a national champion is a great honor, but to have a buck that has produced national champions and has shown himself to be the best producer at the National show for two consecutive years means more than having a national champion to me. It was a great accomplishment for us and a great tribute to him," said Swepton.

Even though Smokin Hot Ruger no longer roams the pastures at the Sweptons', his legacy is sure to live on through his progeny and only time will tell exactly how his legend will be written. "He obviously was the most consistent buck that I've ever owned in terms of quality, and in my opinion, is the most consistent of all time," he stated.

"He was probably a once in a lifetime buck, and we feel very privileged and honored to have had as much time with him as we did. You just don't get very many like him," Sharon Swepton added.



Smokin Hot Ruger kids, placed at 2011 ABGA National Show. Smokin Hot Ruger won Reserve Breeders Herd