

Nancy Creel, Bozeman, MT – First time to Finals

My pup 5H Rey is in Nursery, replacing a two year old dog that I lost to cheat grass. My friends have lots of names for Rey, but my favorite is the “savant,” which probably applies to every dog at the Finals.

After 10 years in Tanzania studying Dwarf Mongooses and African Wild Dogs, I returned to the US to raise my kids following a serious health scare for my oldest. I had read Donald McCaig’s “Nop’s Trials” and, heeding his warning at the back of the book, I got a BC mix. I tried some herding with him, but the instinct was not there. Finally in 2010 I read McCaig’s “The Dog Wars” and I sought a breeder who was only selecting on herding ability. Spring Nero came to me and because of his genius, we were able to introduce herding to many folks in Bozeman, Montana. I moved Nero to Open at age 4 and his first field trial was Goring Ranch. Unfortunately two weeks later he was diagnosed with lymphoma.

Nero’s last work was introducing Rey to the big fields before the snows came in 2017. Because Rey had to start working to sort stock and bring them in for students, some of her foundation was rushed. To prepare for Finals we are going slow and making sure she is confident and sure of her work.

Rey is truly a great little dog. She was started with the best dog in the world and my many mentors, who have helped me put together many pieces of this 3D puzzle we all love.