

1993

1985 National Amateur Field Champion
Field Champion and Amateur Field Champion

Topbrass Cotton



July 07, 1978 - February 13, 1995
Original Owners/Trainers: Jeff & Bev Finley
Then owned & trained by: Jackie Mertens
Co-owned by: Jeff & Bev Finley
Bred by Topbrass Retrievers

Cotton was a replacement puppy given to Jeff and Bev Finley after their older brother to Cotton died in the middle of his Derby career. Jeff ran 19 Derbies with Cotton and earned 46 Derby points. Late in his Derby career, he earned seven blue ribbons in a row by winning five Derbies and two Qualifyings. Cotton won his first Amateur at 26 months and was an FC-AFC at three years of age.

Jeff lost interest in field trialing and Cotton was a housepet from November 1982 until July 1983, when Jackie Mertens and Jeff went into a co-ownership on him. Cotton only ran the fall circuit that year and earned 39 points including a Double Header.

Cotton was always a housepet and never spent a day in a dog run. He has the High Point Record for any Golden with 274.5 All Age points to his credit. He is also the only Golden Retriever to ever win the National Amateur Championship. He was handled to his NAFC by Jackie of Topbrass Retrievers. He was a Finalist at the 1983 National Open Retriever Championship, Winner of the 1985 National Amateur Retriever Championship and Finalist at the 1986 National Amateur Retriever Championship. He was also the High Point Amateur dog in 1984 and again in 1985.

Cotton is the sire of 7 FC or AFC's in the U.S. and several others in Canada. His name appears in the pedigrees of many of today's competitive field trial goldens. Recent linebreedings on Cotton have produced several promising youngsters currently running field trials.

Cotton was not only a great competitor, but also a wonderful family pet to Jeff Finley, Bev Steininger, and Jackie Mertens. After his retirement at 10 years of age, he lived with Jeff and Shelley Finley with occasional visits to Bev's or Jackie's homes. He was a structurally sound, handsome Golden with a superb temperament. His legacy lives on in his progeny.

*Contributed to The Retriever News.com by Jackie Mertens, Elgin, Illinois and
Richard Halstead, Lino Lakes, MN*