

Breed First - Open Agility (OA)



Sir Hennessy Cognac NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ, WP, WPX, WPS

Ray & Barbara Slish

By Ray Slish

After completing Hennessy's Novice Standard title and then going on to get his Novice Jumpers With Weaves title, I was content with that and I was planning to stay in Novice just to show people that a Saint can not only compete in agility, but come in First. So many people kept asking me when I was going to start in Open, saying that the dog can do it, that I decided to give it a try.

Instead of entering just one Open class, I entered both Open classes. On our first try, we received a "leg" in both Open Standard and in Open Jumpers With Weaves. This was in the middle of July 2001, and by the 18th of August we had earned both Open titles. At one show there were nine dogs in the 24" class and eleven dogs in the 20" class, and Hennessy was the only dog to qualify. No one can say Saints cannot do it all. Hennessy made me proud that day.

Going from Novice to Open is a big change and I had to change the way I handled Hennessy in order to be successful. He was always taught to work on my left side. Now he had to learn that it was alright to be on my right side. We collided at times, and at a recent show he took the next jump while I was sprawled out on the ground. He looked back and saw me, so he came back over the last jump to rescue me, and we were eliminated. Agility does get comical at times.

In Novice there might be six weave poles and in Open up to twelve. Open might have three more obstacles, or the course uses one obstacle more than once. Novice courses seem like an even flow, while in Open they might put in traps, 360 degree turns, or a jump is just there for it's looks, not meant to go over. The number of mistakes you can make is less, and seconds over the time limit score one point in Novice, compared to two points in Open. Not hitting a contact point on an obstacle is still an automatic non-qualification.

A typical course in Novice Standard is 120 yards in 67 seconds, and in Open Standard it is 170 yards in 70 seconds. Novice Jumpers With Weaves is 100 yards in 37 seconds, while Open Jumpers With Weaves is 130 yards in 37 seconds. At one show, while I was on the line waiting to go, the dog in the ring "wet" the pause table, so they held us up until they washed it down with water and ammonia. Well, when Hennessy raced to the pause table and he got a whiff of that, he hit the brakes resulting in points off for a refusal by stopping before jumping up on it. I guess Saints do have a good sense of smell.

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Hennessy doing a series of jumps!

The Take Off



Flying Through The Air



Landing With Ease



Through the tire and off to the finish line to become the FIRST OA Saint Barnard!

First Saint Bernard to Earn The Agility Title
Open Agility (OA)
August 18, 2001

First Saint Bernard To Earn The Open Agility Title (OA)
Saint Bernard National Archive's AKC Agility Record {Regular} For:
Sir Hennessy Cognac NA NAJ OA OAJ WPS
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CH	Titles	Date	2Qs	MQs	NA A	NA B	OA	AX A	AX B	MX	NAJ A	NAJ B	OAJ	AXJ A	AXJ B	MXJ	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	#	M	F
(1) Novice																							
		July 29, 2000			94.62.55													2					
		August 05, 2000			100.60.24													2					
	NA	August 06, 2000			100.47.36													2					
	NA NAJ	April 28, 2001				100.52.42														3			
	NA NAJ	April 29, 2001				100.41.94												1					
	NA NAJ	May 05, 2001				98.36.64													2				
	NA NAJ	May 06, 2001				100.44.53												1					
	NA NAJ	May 27, 2001				98.52.02												1					
Class Summary		8	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	0	0	0
(1) Novice Jumpers With Weaves																							
	NA	October 22, 2000											100.39.36					1					
	NA	February 17, 2001											90.43.93										
	NA NAJ	March 31, 2001											95.39.74							4			
Class Summary		3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
(2) Open																							
	NA NAJ	July 14, 2001	1					100.63.03										1					2
	NA NAJ	July 28, 2001						95.60.49											2				3
	OA OAJ	August 18, 2001	2					95.59.34												3			7
Class Summary		3	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	3
(2) Open Jumpers With Weaves																							
	NA NAJ	July 14, 2001	1										87.41.20						2				1
	NA NAJ	August 04, 2001											94.40.03								4		4
	NA NAJ	August 05, 2001											100.39.99					1					5
	OA OAJ	August 18, 2001	2										100.40.76										6
Class Summary		4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	4
Overall Summary		18	2	ERR	3	5	3	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	6	6	2	2	7	m

2Qs = Dogs qualifying with scores in the Standard and Jumpers with Weaves classes on the same day
MQs (Master Agility Champion) = Dogs qualifying with scores in the EXCELLENT B Standard and Jumpers with Weaves classes on the same day
= Number of advanced scores from the Open and/or Excellent classes