



2008 FMBB WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Volume I, Issue I

May 2008

Special thanks to:

- Shari Lipski, Team Captain for the IPO and Agility Teams.
- Action Designs for the uniform embroidery.
- Nupro Supplements Agility Sponsor.
- World Championship & National Events Committee:

Dana Miller
 Gregory Doud
 Christopher Smith
 Shari Lipski

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Dear AWMA Member,

The AWMA has sent a team to the Federation Mondiale du Berger Belge for the last 14 years. The FMBB is the world organization for the Belgian Shepherd Dog. In 2007, one of our members, Ivan Balabanov, won the World Championship and brought the Gold home to the USA.

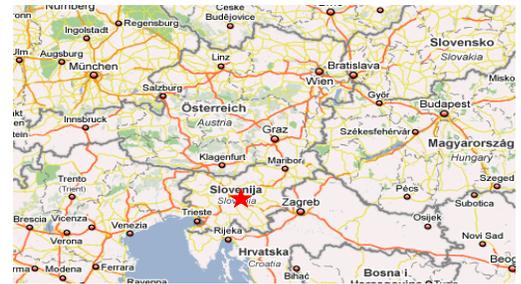
This year we were fortunate enough to send an IPO team and the inaugural agility team. I hope you enjoy reading the following pages outlining our trip to Kocevje, Slovenia and I invite all of you to compete for a spot on our 2009 teams which will be traveling next May to the Czech Republic.



Kocevje, Slovenia

The 2008 FMBB Championship started on Wednesday, May 7th with registration, IPO practice training, and the FMBB Board Meeting. This was the first chance for everyone to meet and greet and see the competition! Each dog/handler team got ten minutes of time on the field to practice. Total time was based on the number of competitors each country sent with all competitors from the same country working together on the field at the same time.

On Thursday the IPO team practice continued and the agility teams took to their field as well for some much needed practice and obstacle familiarization. The agility practice was set-up the same way with each competitor getting three minutes.



There are a number of differences between the agility equipment and courses that we see in the US versus the FCI regulations at this event. For example, the weave poles have 24" spacing and are made of dowels not pvc. All of the jump bars are made of dowels instead of pvc as well. So, with dowels as jump bars, if the dog's toes hit the dowel, it may stay up—in the US the pvc bars go flying. There is also a huge distance between the obstacles versus US standards. The US standards force the dog and handler to be more precise and more focused on perfecting jumping styles and skills.

Needless to say, this event was a little different—the US Team believed in the motto "speed



kills". This is definitely not known in Europe!

The AWMA Teams breezed through the veterinarian inspection in the makeshift MASH tent (that was

(cont'd. on page 6)



2008 AWMA IPO WORLD TEAM

Michael Morgan & Baccas vom Drachenherz

IPO3

-  FMBB 2008, 2007, & 2006 competitor
-  AWDF 2007 & 2005 competitor
-  AWMA 2007 – 4th place
-  AWMA 2006 – 4th place



As one of only two IPO competitors in the 2008 FMBB World Championship, Bacchus and I arrived a week early in Slovenia, along with coach Joey Leigh, to begin training. We found Slovenia to be quite beautiful, friendly and hospitable. It has the Alps in the north, the coast to the west, great forests to the south and much agriculture in the east. We were able to see much of the countryside while looking for a soccer field to practice on. After a couple of days of searching in a number of towns and villages there were no soccer fields! Basketball courts, yes! Then I read in a tour book that unlike other European countries, basketball, not soccer, is their national sport. Fortunately we located one nice club with a soccer field an hour away, received permission and used it a few times, as well as another suitable field. We also worked some touring in with practice and went to Lipica, original home of the Lipizzaner horses; Lake Bled, a beautiful alpine tourist town; the Skocjan Caves, huge caverns; and Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia.



We met Steve Gregalunas and his dog Eli, who had just arrived, for a practice session Wednesday evening.

On Thursday night after the vet exam

(by the Slovenian Army) and the ceremonial Parade of Nations, Steve and I attended the draw. Competitors were to select small, magnetized folk-art pictures from Slovenia attached to a board on a wall and look on the bottom to see their flight number. Steve's flight was scheduled for tracking at 5 PM Friday and stadium work on Saturday at 4:30 PM. I was not tracking until 9 AM Saturday and 10:40 AM in the stadium on Sunday.

Though we scored 85-94-88, I am still proud. Bacchus worked through a difficult track and showed his intensity throughout the protection phase again.

It was good to see the US fielding an agility team at the FMBB Championship for the first time though it wasn't easy keeping track of both agility and IPO events. We will see them again next year in the Czech Republic!

Mike Morgan

Steve Gregalunas & Eli vom Teufelhund

IPO3

-  AWMA 2007 – Champion
-  Multiple National events competitor



Selection Criteria for the 2009 AWMA IPO World Team

Current members of the AWMA in good standing with Belgian Malinois are eligible for the AWMA FMBB team if their dog is AKC registered, or registered with another FCI recognized kennel club. The dog must be intact, or have a letter from the neutering veterinarian explaining that the dog was altered for medical reasons and was fertile prior to the procedure. Dogs must be tattooed or micro-chipped to compete at the FMBB, although the AWMA will select dogs without a tattoo or microchip. Selected dogs must then be tattooed or microchipped prior to the FMBB trial.

Qualifying for the Team

The top four eligible dog/handler teams at the AWMA IPO Nationals earn positions on the FMBB World Team. Ties will be broken by high protection score, then high obedience score. Should one of these top four handlers reject or be ineligible for their position, the position(s) will be filled via the point system. The remaining 2 (or more) positions plus the one alternate position will be filled via the point system.

Declaring for a Team Position

Handlers are responsible for sending a completed/signed (both owner and handler) declaration form along with a copy of four generation FCI recognized pedigree, copy of registration, and a copy of the scorebook to the World Championship/National Events committee. Failure to send the completed form and all supplemental copies and fees constitutes a rejection of a team position. The declaration must be postmarked by Feb 1st, 2009 and include a \$250 good faith deposit. Members who are not selected for the team will have their \$250 deposit refunded upon final team selection. Selected team members' deposits will be refunded at the World Championships. Deposits will not be returned to handlers who decide not to trial after being selected for the team.

Point System

The time period to earn qualification points will run from February 2 of the previous year to February 1 of the year in which the team will be selected. Positions for the team will be filled in order according to the number of points earned. A tie in points will be broken by the highest average score. If there is still a tie, then it will be broken by highest average protection score, then highest average obedience score. All points earned must be with the same handler/dog team and only applicable to SchH III/IPO III level trials.

AWMA Nationals, USA North American Championship, DVG Nationals, USA HOT Tournament, AWDF Nationals
(as a representative of the AWMA), FMBB or FCI World Championship

- V 5 points
- SG 4 points
- G 3 points
- S 2 points

USA Regionals, DVG Regionals

- V 3 points
- SG 2 points
- G 1 point

All other trials, with a maximum of 3 points earnable

- V 1 point

Additional points may be earned for a top ten finish at the FMBB and FCI IPO III World Championships:

- Top Ten Finish 2 points

You can download the 2009 IPO Declaration Form and the Competitor Guideline
on the AWMA website at <http://www.workingmalinois.org/events/>.

Would you like to be the 2009 IPO Team Captain? For selection criteria, please visit
the AWMA website at <http://www.workingmalinois.org/events/> and download the information.



2008 AWMA AGILITY WORLD TEAM



Shari Lipski & Tisa du Banc des Hermelles

SchHB, NA, NAJ, NF, OA, OAJ, OF, AX, AXJ, MX, MXJ

- 🐕 2008 FMBB World Agility Championship Finalist
- 🐕 2008 AKC Agility Nationals Competitor
- 🐕 #10 Belgian Malinois 2007 AKC TopDogs in Agility
- 🐕 #29 Belgian Malinois AKC TopDogs in Agility, Lifetime Standing 2007
- 🐕 88 agility wins with 40 1st place finishes, 80 podium positions overall



Norman Minarik & Moonquests One Giant Leap "Tax"

NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ, AX, AXJ, MX

- 🐕 2008 Inaugural AWMA FMBB Agility Team Competitor
- 🐕 #13 Belgian Malinois 2007 AKC TopDogs in Agility
- 🐕 #35 Belgian Malinois AKC TopDogs in Agility Lifetime Standing 2007
- 🐕 58 agility wins with 34 1st place finishes, 54 podium positions overall



Anker King & CH Trisorts Grand Wizard

CD, NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ, AX, AXJ, MXJ

- 🐕 2008 Inaugural AWMA FMBB Agility Team Competitor
- 🐕 #37 Belgian Malinois 2007 AKC TopDogs in Agility
- 🐕 #9 Belgian Malinois USDAA 2007 Qualifications Standings for the Northeast
- 🐕 #39 Belgian Malinois USDAA 2007 Qualifications Standings for the US
- 🐕 #25 Belgian Malinois USDAA 26" Tournament Top Ten - Lifetime Standings
- 🐕 61 agility wins with 22 1st place finishes, 51 podium positions overall



Selection Criteria for the 2009 AWMA Agility World Team

Current members of the AWMA in good standing are eligible for the FMBB Agility Team if their dog has an FCI recognized pedigree. The dog must be intact, or have a letter from the neutering veterinarian explaining that the dog was altered for medical reasons and was fertile prior to the procedure. Dogs must be tattooed or micro-chipped to compete at the FMBB, although the AWMA will select dogs without a tattoo or microchip. Selected dogs must then be tattooed or micro-chipped prior to the FMBB trial.

Qualifying for the Team

The top eight eligible dog/handler Teams from submitted AKC &/or USDAA Entries at Large and the point system noted below will earn positions on the FMBB World Team. There will also be two positions appointed for alternates. The top four eligible dog/handler Teams will also compete in 'the 'USA Team' competition at the FMBB. Ties will be broken based on the fastest yards per second (yps) of each Team's entries submitted.

Declaring for a Team Position

Handlers are responsible for sending a completed/signed (both owner and handler) Declaration Form and Entry Qualification Form along with a copy of four generation FCI recognized pedigree, copy of FCI recognized registration, an official copy of the AKC &/or USDAA Awards Record, and a copy of their AWMA scorebook to the AWMA Agility Chairperson. Failure to send the completed forms and all supplemental copies and fees constitutes a rejection of a Team position. The Declaration, Entry Qualification Form, and supplemental information must be received no later than February 1st, 2009 along with a \$250 good faith deposit. Members who are not selected for the Team will have their \$250 deposit refunded upon final Team selection. Selected Team members' deposits will be refunded at the World Championships. Deposits will not be returned to handlers who decide not to trial after being selected for the Team. The Team will be selected February 15, 2009.

Point System

Positions for the Team will be filled based on a combination of the average yards per second of each qualifying score submitted on the entry form and the number of points earned on those qualifying scores according to the criteria below.

A tie in 'points' will be broken by the highest average yps score. If there is still a tie, then it may be decided by a vote of the AWMA, WC/NE Committee. The minimum point system entry requirement is six (6) from Entries at Large. The maximum point accumulation is fifty (50). Suggested minimum JWW yps/time for 2009 is 4.50/34.00.

- ↳ MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENT AT 26" JUMP HEIGHT FROM ENTRIES AT LARGE. Any regular AKC or USDAA Excellent/Master Level trialing event (minimum accumulation is six (6) points) (maximum is twelve (12) points).
 - ↳ 1 point Standard (minimum 3 at 26") Qualifying Round, Placement
 - ↳ 1 point JWW (minimum 3 at 26") Qualifying Round, Placement
- ↳ REGULAR ENTRIES AT LARGE. Any regular AKC or USDAA Excellent/Master Level trialing event (at team's regular jump height) (max. is eighteen (18) points). (24"/26" entries will take precedence over 20"/22").
 - ↳ 1 point each: Qualifying Round, DQ
- ↳ ABMC AGILITY NATIONALS. (at team's regular jump height) (maximum accumulation four (4) points).
 - ↳ 1 point each: Placement, DQ
- ↳ AKC ISC CLASS TRIALING EVENT. (26" jump height only) (maximum accumulation four (4) points).
 - ↳ 1 point each: Qualifying Round, Placement
- ↳ AWMA AGILITY TRIAL (ISC 26"Format—if offered). (maximum accumulation 4 points).
 - ↳ 1 point each: Qualifying Round, Placement
- ↳ AKC AGILITY NATIONALS AND/OR TEAM COMPETITION, USDAA NATIONALS, AKC INVITATIONAL (at team's regular jump height) (maximum accumulation eight (8)).
 - ↳ 1 point each: Competitor, Qualifying Round, Placement
- ↳ 2008 FMBB WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.
 - ↳ 1 point each: Competitor, Qualifying Round, Placement in any Round
 - ↳ 3 points Finals and/or Top Ten Finish

For a complete list of the 2009 AWMA Agility Rules and Regulations, to download the Agility Declaration Form, Entry Qualification Form, and the Competitor Guidelines, please visit the AWMA website at <http://www.workingmalinois.org/events/>.

Would you like to be the 2009 Agility Team Captain? For selection criteria, please visit the AWMA website at <http://www.workingmalinois.org/events/> and download the information.



interesting). Then the day continued with the Team leaders and judges meetings for agility and IPO, followed by a demonstration for the spectators and competitors of the IPO dogs for both obedience and protection work.

Around 5:30pm all of the teams lined up by country for the opening of the 14th Annual FMBB World Championships. As each country took the field in parade like format, their country name was announced and national anthem played. It really is an exciting and invigorating event to see and be part of. A definitive proud moment for everyone's hard work over the year to be wearing your country colors, seeing each country flag waving in the wind, and feeling the anticipation of the events to come. The IPO draw followed and the evening's events concluded.

Friday's IPO's events started at 7:00am and the agility opening ceremony began at 9:00am. This was the inaugural year for the AWMA to send an agility team. We had no idea what to expect and definitely felt the eyes watching. As I was walking through the



crowd I heard "Have you seen the Americans?" "No, I don't know where they set-up their things." As I turned around to see who was talking, they replied "This is the first year they are here. We are all wondering..." So I chimed in with..."Hi! What would you like to know?" It was then that we met the members of the Dutch and German teams. We found out that all of the eyes were watching the USA. Talk about stress!

On Friday Steve & Eli competed in the IPO competition with tracking and got a 70. Mike & Backus had the day off.

Shari & Tisa finished a perfect round one with no faults and a course time of 35.60. Round two found them with some faults yielding an overall time of 44.07.

Norm & Tax had an off-course in Jumping which resulted in a disqualification but in the second round, they completed the course in 37.83 seconds with a small penalty.

Anker & Wizzie finished the first round in 49.69 seconds but were disqualified in the second round

due to an off course.

Saturday's events continued with Steve & Eli in the stadium earning a 78 in obedience and they V'd protection with a 96. Way to finish Steve and Eli! Mike had tracking on Saturday and got an 85 with Backus.

Norm & Tax finished the Jumping competition in 36.16 seconds and in the second round of the day, finished the course in 51.91 seconds. Norm and Tax placed 88th overall.

Shari & Tisa started the day out bad with no score due to, of course, a huge handler error and no course time. But they rallied in the fourth round with a time of 49.41 and earned a spot in the finals on Sunday.

Anker and Wizzie finished the third round in 44.59 seconds and then ran into a few issues in the fourth round. Their overall placement was 94th.

Sunday's events continued with Mike & Backus in the stadium getting a 94 in obedience and earned an

88 in protection.

Shari & Tisa were in the agility finals. Our first round was clean and in the last round, we had a refusal and extra course time to fix the error. Our overall placement was 37th—if and that's a big if, we wouldn't have had that error we would have placed around 24th or 25th—and yes that is my I caught a fish thiiiiissss big story! 😊

Sunday's closing events found us with Mojca Tominc of Slovenia with her dog Senna Smreska Zenski as the 2008 FMBB IPO World Champion. Gerrt Verliinden of Belgium with his dog Gucci von den Lausbuben came in 2nd, and Mia Skogster of Finland and with her dog Mecberger Chortoryiski came in 3rd place.

There were 23 countries competing in the IPO event with a total of 92 dog/handler teams.

In Agility, the 1st place trophy went to Johan Renders of Belgium with his dog Dolce Simply Divine, 2nd place went to Martina Klimesova of Czech Republic and her dog Axa Z Lounskeho Chovu, and 3rd place was awarded to Margrith Ingold of Switzerland with her dog Bony du Mont des Exailleux.



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There were 19 countries competing in the agility event with a total of 121 dog/handler teams.

If you like to see the individual and team results from the event, please visit www.FMBB2008.com.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the AWMA's travels this year. The AWMA Board would like to thank you for being a member and we value your thoughts and comments about how to continue to make **your** association a success. Please feel free to contact anyone on the board with any questions or comments or to volunteer for an event, committee, or just to help out!

We hope to see each of you at the AWMA National Championship, September 26th to the 28th, in Olympia, Washington. For more information regarding the National Championship, please visit <http://www.awmachampionship.com>.

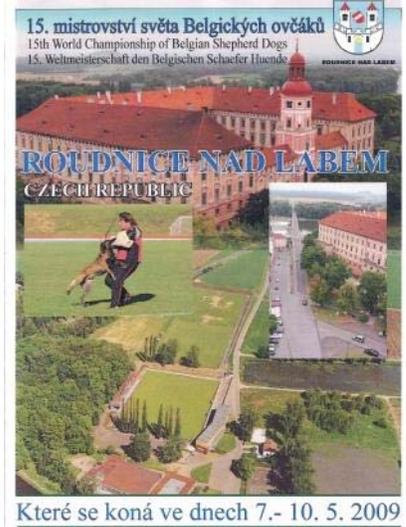
Thinking about vying for a spot on the 2009 Teams going to the Czech Republic? The 2009 IPO and Agility World Team Selection Criteria and forms have been posted to the AWMA website for you to read and download. We'd love to see you on the field and up on the podium!

Please feel free to email or give me a call if you have any questions or if you would like to travel with the team and experience the event with the competitors.

I wish you and your beloved four legged friends, the greatest success in Dog Sport.

Best Regards,
Shari Lipski
AWMA World Team
& National Events Chairperson

Thanks for reading
—See you soon!
Tisa



The 15th Annual FMBB World Championships will be held in Roudnice Nad Labem, Czech Republic

May 7th - 10th, 2009

The AWMA will be sending an IPO Team, consisting of five members and one alternate and an Agility Team consisting of eight members and two alternates to the event.

Handlers wishing to declare a position for either team can find the selection criteria on the AWMA's website under upcoming events. Up to date information will be posted to the website as it becomes available.

www.WorkingMalinois.com



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