

Associates Newsletter

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B&C Associates Program Celebrates its 25th Year
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NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME AWARDS
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Twenty-five years after it was officially measured by the 19th Big Game Awards Judges Panel, the 'Hole-in-the-Horn' buck—now owned by Bass Pro Shops—is still the Ohio State record and holds the number two All-time spot.

THE HOLE-IN-THE-HORN BUCK; WHAT HAPPENED?

It was ballyhooed for the past several years as being "the new world's record non-typical whitetail. The so-called "Hole-In-The-Horn whitetail, a trophy from the 1940's in Ohio was indeed a potential world's record, based upon its entry score of 345-6/8 points. As those of you who read "Whitetail" magazine know, the owner of this exceptional rack, well-known outdoor writer Dick Idol, contributed a series

of articles on this trophy, always referring to it as the "new world's record". No doubt, characterizing this trophy as a "record", rather than "potential record", sold more magazines and made better reading (at least in that editor's mind) than carefully stating the facts of the matter.

The Hole-In-The-Horn buck is a very fine example of why world's records are not proclaimed on the basis of the entry score. Particularly in the case of the antlered categories, there are nearly always some areas of interpretation in designation of the trophy characters and proper measurement technique. In this case, there were several points on the main beam that were not clearly either normal (by location and pairing) or abnormal (any point not designated as a normal point). Depending on which way these points were designated, there could be a swing of 20 or so points in the correct final score for this trophy.

The entry measurement was made by one of the oldest and most experienced measurers. But, he had to make his unilateral decision of those same points mentioned above. For something as critical as a world's record, or even any trophy in the top 10 of the category, one man's opinion, no matter how experienced, is insufficient. Only a Judges Panel, made up of a baker's dozen of the most experienced and reliable measurers, is allowed to rule on such cases. Thus, the Hole-In-The-Horn buck had to come before the 19th Awards Judge's Panel, and only they, in their collective wisdom, could determine the final score and whether or not this fine rack would be proclaimed the new world's record. Their deliberations were long and detailed and exhaustive, but also without dissent in arriving at the final score, and rank, for this whitetail. They disagreed with the entry measurement in the designation of the questionable points (which also, of course, affects the circumference measurements). The panel agreed upon a final score of 328-5/8, which made this trophy the all-time number 2 for the category. This leaves the 1982 pick-up from Missouri as the world's record, just as it has been since it was recognized at the 18th Awards in 1983 in Dallas, Texas.