

Make Room at Top

Oklahoma County Buck a State Record

By Covey Bean
Staff Writer

Oklahoma County can take its place among the state's top trophy deer producers thanks to a 16-point buck arrowed last December just south of the Logan County line by Chris Foutz of Edmond.

The Foutz buck became the state record for typical antlers last weekend when it was officially scored during the Backwoods Hunting and Fishing Show at the fairgrounds.

Foutz' buck scored 179 6/8 to oust a 10-pointer killed by rifle hunter Skip Rowell in Atoka County in 1972 from the top spot in the Wildlife Department's Cy Curtis listing for typical antlers. Rowell's buck scored 177 6/8.

Foutz' buck could have been scored Feb. 23 after a 60-day waiting period to allow for shrinkage, but he agreed to have it scored at the Backwoods Show and about 200 people were on hand to witness the official measurements.

Foutz' buck grossed 193 1/8, but had 13 3/8 points deducted for mismatched tines.

"It was a straightforward typical," said Dennis Geary, one of three official scorers who measured the antlers. "It was real symmetrical. That was the key to it."

The panel of official Boone & Crockett scorers included game warden Tracy Daniel and Mike Shaw, research supervisor for the Wildlife Department, the agency's whitetail expert.

Although it had only a 17-inch inside spread, the rack sported long



Chris Foutz nervously awaits the verdict.

tines and good mass. The longest tine measured 10 3/8 and the bases measured 4 6/8 and 4 7/8.

The Boone & Crockett scoring system used by the Wildlife Department to measure entries in its Cy Curtis Awards Program to recog-

nize trophy whitetails is based on width, length, mass and symmetry with deductions required for unmatched points.

Chewing a thumb, Foutz nervously looked on from a front-row seat as the scorers worked on the antlers for nearly 20 minutes.

"We've got a new No. 1 Cy Curtis buck," Shaw finally announced. "It surpasses the old record by two inches."

"I was dancing up and down," Foutz said. "The worst part of it was waiting for them to finish scoring."

The 28-year-old Foutz killed the 170-pound (dressed) buck on Dec. 23, eight days before the 1992 archery season ended, north of Arcadia Lake, only a few miles from the state's most heavily populated metropolitan area. Foutz had never before hunted the area.

He nailed it with a 25-yard shot from a tree stand and trailed it about 200 yards before finding the animal dead in a swamp. The buck will also qualify for Pope & Young and Boone & Crockett listings. Pope & Young, which recognizes archery kills, has a minimum of 125 and Boone & Crockett's is 170. Foutz said he will submit the score sheet to both organizations.

George Moore, chairman of the Edmond Game and Fish Commission, was responsible for Foutz' buck getting in the record book. He recognized its trophy potential after Foutz asked him to take a look at the big buck he had just killed north of town.



Mike Shaw, Tracy Daniel and Dennis Geary, left to right, measure the state-record typical whitetail killed by Chris Foutz in Oklahoma County.

— Staff Photos by Paul B. Southerland