

Archer Hits State Record Bull's-Eye

Buck Taken in Northern Oklahoma County Notches Preliminary Score of 184 $\frac{3}{8}$

By Covey Bean
Staff Writer

As the 1992 archery deer season wound down, bowhunter Chris Foutz of Edmond arrowed a 16-point buck in northern Oklahoma County that preliminary scoring indicates will be a new state record for typical antlers.

Foutz' buck green scores 184 and three-eighths. The best typical whitetail trophy in the Wildlife Department's Cy Curtis record book is a 10-pointer killed by Skip Rowell in Atoka County in 1972. It scored 177 and six-eighths, at that time good enough for 108th in the Boone & Crockett standings.

The Foutz buck cannot be officially scored until 60 days after it was killed to allow for shrinkage. However, an official Boone & Crockett scorer who measured Foutz' rack said he had never heard of deer antlers shrinking more than one inch.

The Boone & Crockett scoring system is based on width, length, mass and symmetry, with deductions required for unmatched points. Foutz' rack grossed 197 and three eighths with 13 inches of deductions. That is an extremely even set of antlers for a 16-pointer.

The only significant flaw was an odd third brow tine which had curved forward into and then outward from the skull. It resulted in a five-inch deduction. Tines longer than 10 inches and five-inch bases made up for the fact that the rack has only a 17-inch inside spread.

"It's some buck," said Greg Duffy, Wildlife Department game chief who inspected the antlers.

The 28-year-old Foutz killed the 170-pound buck Dec. 23 north of Arcadia Lake and just south of the Oklahoma-Logan County line on land he had never previously hunted.

He said he went to the area about 12:30

p.m., found some large tracks and set up his stand in an oak tree. He said he returned home, got his camouflage clothing and took his stand about 2 p.m. after planting a Matrix attractor scent on a nearby bush.

"I sat there about two hours and some does came along," he said. "About 10 minutes later I saw this deer coming at a steady walk through the trees. He went right to the bush where the scent was and stopped broadside looking away from me.

"I could just see him from the side," he said. "I thought he was a 10-pointer. I just concentrated on making the shot. I didn't know how big he was until I found him. I didn't know anything about scoring, but I knew he was a big buck."

Foutz said his arrow, shot from a compound bow with a 65-pound pull, struck the buck in the lung area just a bit higher than his point of aim.

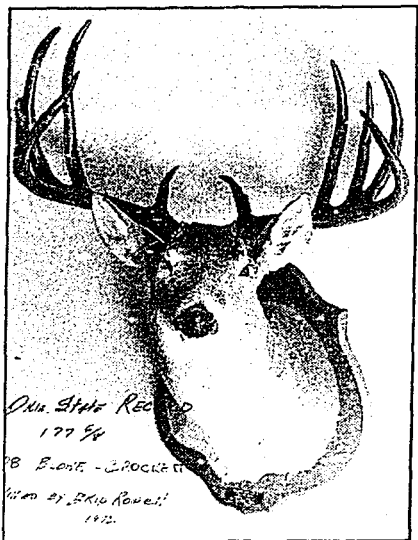
"He jumped straight up and took off," Foutz said. He said he followed a blood trail for about 200 yards into a swamp and found the animal lying dead in the water just before dark.

He said he used his 15-yard sight pin to make a shot that proved to be 25 yards from a stand 12 feet off the ground.

"I never shoot in the same spot twice anyway," he said. Foutz said although he was not familiar with the scoring system for antlered animals, he decided to show the buck to George Moore, chairman of the

Edmond Game and Fish Commission. Moore, an avid hunter, recognized the buck as a possible state record and scored it himself before taking it to the Wildlife Department to be checked in and then to an official scorer. The official scorer gave the antlers two more points than Moore.

"I'm proud of it because it came from Edmond," said Moore. "I knew because of the beam length and the number of points it



This is Skip Rowell's record rack.



Chris Foutz' 16-point Oklahoma County buck is believed to be a state record for typical antlers.

would score high. I told Chris I didn't want to pump him up, but I thought it would be close to a state record."

Foutz said he had never killed a buck larger than a six-pointer and had never before killed anything with his bow.

"I try a lot," he grinned. "I've shot at a lot of them."

Foutz, who attends flight school in Guthrie, said he is surprised by all the attention he's getting as a result of his first archery

kill.

"I love it," he said. "My wife (of two months) said I can go hunting anytime I want to."

Although Foutz' buck can be officially scored on Feb. 23, he said he has agreed to have it measured for the record during the Backwoods Hunting and Fishing Show March 5-7 at the fairgrounds. The trophy will be mounted free of charge by Terry's Taxidermy.