

AP Overwater (Strijen, NL) Continues to succeed with his “De Dure” Dynasty

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When you hear the name AP Overwater what comes to everybody’s mind is the name “De Dure.” Mr. Overwater credits a vast amount of his success to this one bird. His potent genetics continue to produce top results even today and “De Dure” was bred in 1992, so it’s a family that has stood the test of time. Here is a quick list showing just the national winners he is the father/grandfather of, it is just incredible: 1st National Bergerac ’17, 1st National Cahors S2 ’17, 1st National Agen (France) ’15, 1st National Agen S2 ’14, 1st National Perigueux ’13, 1st National Mt. de Marsan ’12, 1st National/International Bordeaux ’09, 1st National Bordeaux S2 ’10. You cannot argue with these type of results. He is quickly becoming a legend and is definitely one of the most well-known and respected long distance fanciers in Europe. AP was kind enough to answer the following questions that I asked of him.

What is the base of your family of pigeons (bloodlines)? How did you breed them to create your current family?

At the end of the 1980’s AP chose two inbred strains to work with and put together. One was from Bas Batenburg & Son (Hugo) in Klaaswaal and Peter van der Einde from Deurne (the old Aarden lines). AP bought a cock from Bas Batenburg and Son that became famous, he called him “De Dure.” He was a grandson of the legendary breeder “Witbuik” who is still known today and highly successful in numerous lofts.

“De Dure” is the base pigeon of AP’s loft. Children and grandchildren won more than 10 times a 1st National. Two of which were won by AP himself!

AP later bred a son of him that he called “De Nieuw Dure,” which he put directly in the breeding loft, because AP had a great feeling about him and he was not wrong. This has turned out to be a golden move as “De Nieuw Dure” is taking over in the footsteps of his father.

What system do you race and how do you prep them for a long distance flight?

At the beginning of the season AP races the cocks and hens separately until 4 weeks before a big race, then they are raced on eggs or youngsters. After 3 big races he separates them again for the last 3 or 4 big races.

What supplements do you use or natural products?

AP has used a special product for more than 20 years called Bio-even. This can be found on his website www.apoverwater.nl. If interested it can also be purchased directly from AP. When Bio-even is used, especially in the spring, the birds do not get canker. It cleans the body and gives them very good health. Best part is that it is 100% natural.

In the summer he also uses products from Travipharma called Travipharma Turbo Disinfect. This is given when the pigeons come back from a race. A week before a race the birds are given LTW from Gert Jan Beute.

How do you feed and what do you feed your birds during the training period and leading up to a race?

At the beginning of the schedule a lighter food is given up until they reach 200 km, and then they are given heavier feed with more protein and fat as the races get longer.

Once the big races arrive from 1000 km or more, then the last 3 days before basketing heavy feed with a lot of fat is given.

Thoughts on medications?

AP tries not to use medicine at all as they need to have a naturally strong immune system. However, if the pigeons become sick he will give them medication to recover.

What are some of your best achievements, championships, titles or prizes won?

Here are results of AP's 2020 season, quite the string of results.

National Barcelona: 46e 62e 206e 266e 320e 332e 344e 469e 497e 797e 893e against 4.477 pigeons

National Perpignan: 10e 26e 145e 233e 282e 293e 552e 699e 732e 781e 804e against 3.354 pigeons

National Agen Yearlings Z.L.U.: 56e 286e 298e 303e 437e 713e against 5.480 pigeons

These are a list of his top 10 National prizes from 2013-2019:

- 1^e Nat Agen S2 N.P.O. vs. 3.599 pigeons
- 1^e Nat Dax S2 N.P.O. vs. 2.131 pigeons
- 3^e Nat Narbonne Z.L.U. vs. 4.566 pigeons
- 6^e Nat BordeauxS2 NPO vs. 4.277 pigeons
- 8^e Nat Barcelona Z.L.U. vs. 5.422 pigeons
- 8^e Int Barcelona Z.L.U. vs. 21.169 pigeons
- 8^e Nat Cahors S2 N.P.O vs. 5.279 pigeons
- 10^e Nat Dax overall vs. 10.072 pigeons

What is currently your best pigeon?

AP's current #1 breeder is "De Nieuw Dure" who is the father/grandfather of the below prizes:

4th National Pau vs. 3,124 birds

8th International Barcelona vs. 21,169 birds

8th National Barcelona vs. 5,422 birds

16th National Agen vs. 6,211 birds

35th National Bordeaux vs. 4,504 birds

39th National Perpignan vs. 6,414 birds

45th National Cahors vs. 5,359 birds and many more

Two of his recent best performers are "Miss Turbo Dax" and "De Barcelona Turbo"

"Miss Turbo Dax" won 1st National Dax S2 vs. 2,131 birds and 10th National Dax vs. 10,072 birds in 2018.

"De Barcelona Turbo" won the title 1st International Ace Pigeon Barcelona '15-'18 PIPA Rankings, 2nd National Ace Pigeon Barcelona ZLU '15-'17 and 3rd International Ace Pigeon Barcelona '15-'17 PIPA Rankings

Goal for the future?

AP Overwater's goal for the future is to maintain his high level of success and win top 25 National prizes every year. Also like many other long distance fanciers, his dream is to win Barcelona.

What is the secret to your success or what do you attribute your success to?

AP was very adamant about making a system that you feel good about, but that also prioritizes the next three things in order. #1 Family, #2 your work or job, #3 your pigeons. He suggests making a system where all 3 work well and in harmony. Then do not change your system.

You must have a good feeling for animals and be extremely observant. Notice everything when you are in your loft.

A big thank you to AP Overwater for taking the time to answer my questions and agreeing to be a part of this article. Best of luck for 2021 and continued success as "De Dure" dynasty continues!