

# **Toom Family (Alblasserdam, NL) Fanatics of the extreme long distance and their wonder breeder “Messi”**

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The Toom Family has been a successful team in the long distance races of the Netherlands both in the NPO (afternoon releases) as well as the ZLU (morning release) international races. I think that birds that excel in both series is a sign of a good family of pigeons. Some fanciers are able to compete well in the ZLU races, but in the NPO races do not compete at the same level and vice versa, but there are some fanciers like the Toom Family where it doesn't seem to matter they just compete at a top level either way. This family team has tasted success by winning two different 1<sup>st</sup> National prizes with “Tim” (1<sup>st</sup> National Cahors) who is now owned by the Combination Baas-Berg and “Janco” (1<sup>st</sup> National Agen) who is now owned by Frank Zwiers. They currently possess a super breeder named “Messi” who we will discuss later. For this interview I asked the following questions of the younger fancier Sebastiaan from the family team.

## **What is the base of your family of pigeons (bloodlines)? How did you breed them to create your current family? How do you decide what goes into your breeding program?**

The bloodlines he obtained and crossed together to form his family are from Tim Hage, Jelle Jellema, A.P. Overwater and Jan & Anne Sas from Belgium where they obtained “Messi.” He formed his family by crossing all of the above-mentioned bloodlines with that of the “Messi” family and this was the base of their success. Pigeons are put into the breeding program either because they have achieved very good performances or come off proven pigeons.

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

They race all their pigeons on the nest and send them with a youngster of 6 or 7 days in the nest. He prepares them for a race by “cleaning the heads” or treating for respiratory one week before shipping and a canker-pill is given just before basketing. The birds receive high-energy feed as much as they want and peanuts. In the week before basketing he takes them on a 50 km (31 miles) toss.

## **What supplements do you use or natural products?**

Baker's yeast is put on the food and Belgasol from Belgica-de Weerd. Belgasol is a liquid form of vitamins.

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

The pigeons are fed a basic mixture and when they are preparing to go to the races then they increase the high-energy feed.

### **Thoughts on medications?**

Sebastiaan does not believe in overuse of medication, but also believes that without some medication there is no chance at success. The pigeons need to be healthy to win the race, so they must be canker and Ornithosis (respiratory) free.

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

1st Nat Agen 2013  
1st Nat Cahors morning release 2014  
1st Nat Ace pigeon Agen ZLU 16-17-18  
1st Nat Ace pigeon yearlings 2019  
4th Nat Ace pigeon St. Vincent ZLU 14-15-16  
5th Nat Bergerac 2019  
6th Nat Bergerac 2017  
6th Nat Ace pigeon Barcelona 15-16-17  
8th Nat Bergerac 2015  
8th Nat Bergerac 2018  
14th Nat Cahors 2013  
14th Nat St Vincent 2019  
17th Nat Agen ZLU 2017  
21st Nat Bordeaux 2019  
25th Nat Agen ZLU 2016  
26th Nat Agen ZLU 2017  
26th Nat Agen ZLU 2016  
27th Nat Pau 2019  
27th Nat Agen ZLU 2018

### **What is currently your best pigeon?**

When I asked Sebastiaan what his best pigeon is he simply sent me a pedigree of “Messi,” a cock that originates from Belgium from the loft of Jan and Anne Sas. “Messi” is a 2008 pigeon but is still fertilizing his eggs which I think is a sign of a top-quality pigeon with a lot of vitality and “Messi” has the breeding results to back it up. He is the father and grandfather of the following: 1<sup>st</sup> National Ace Pigeon Agen ZLU '16-'18, 4<sup>th</sup> National Ace Pigeon St. Vincent ZLU '14-'16, 5<sup>th</sup> International Ace Pigeon Yearlings 2018, 6<sup>th</sup> National Ace Pigeon Barcelona '15-'17, 1<sup>st</sup> National Agen, 5<sup>th</sup> National Bergerac, 8<sup>th</sup> National Bergerac, 14<sup>th</sup> National Cahors, 25<sup>th</sup> National Agen ZLU and so on with 11 more top 60 national prizes. What a fantastic breeder!

### **Goal for the future?**

Simple, being #1 of the Netherlands.

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

The motivation of the pigeons and dedication.