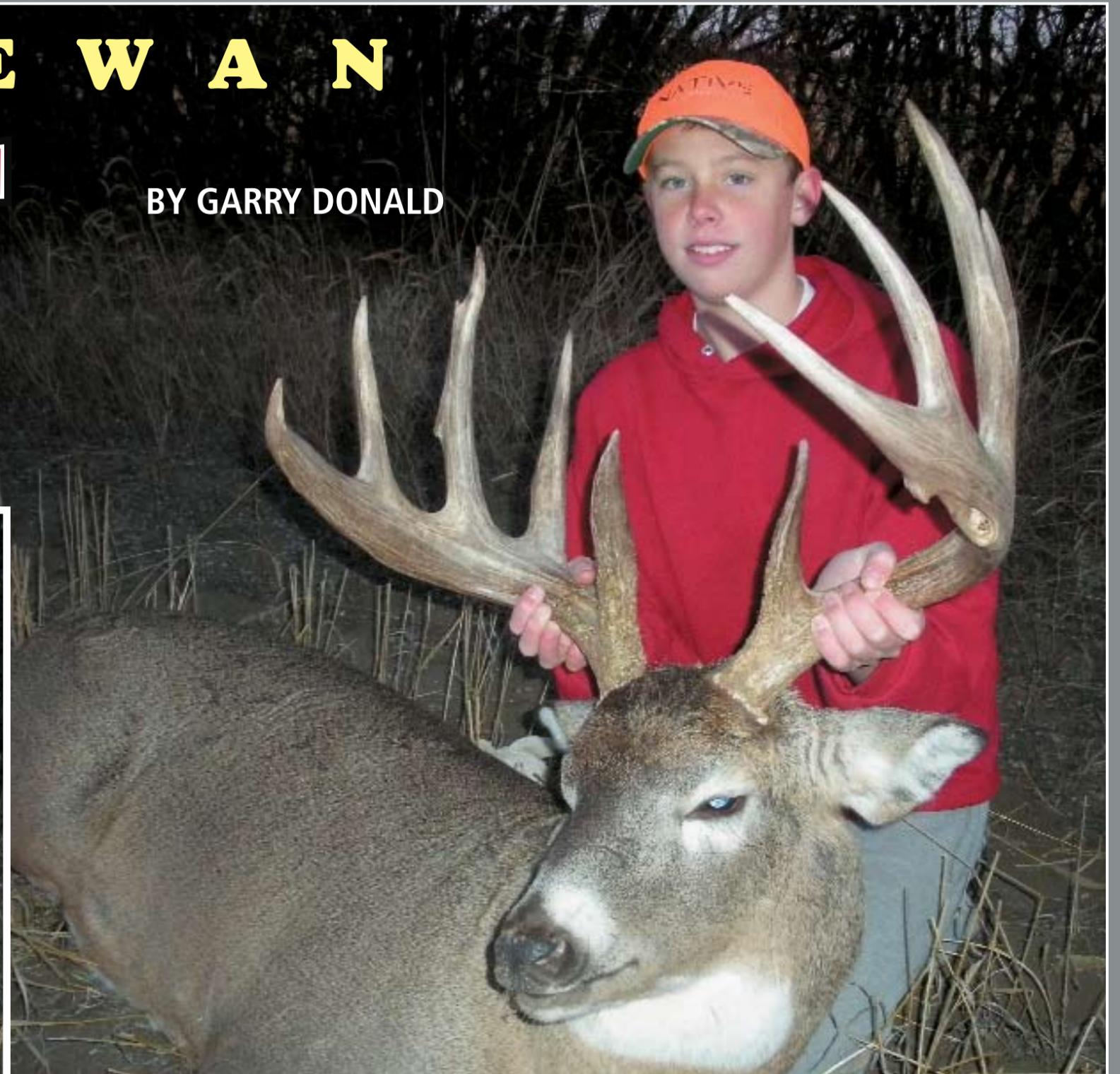


S A S K A T C H E W A N

Heart-Stopper

BY GARRY DONALD

Jesse Haug of Outlook, Saskatchewan, shows us the largest scoring whitetail taken in Saskatchewan during the 2009 whitetail season. Main beams on this brute are excellent at 25 5/8 and 26 even inches. Brow-tines are 6 6/8 and 6 inches, with the longest G-2 at 11 inches. G-3s are very long at 10 7/8 and 11 2/8, with good G-4s both measuring 7 inches. Circumferences are above average with four of them measuring 5 2/8 and the remaining four are over 6 inches. The right antler scores 83 5/8 and the left adds up to 84 1/8. Adding the 19 1/8 inside spread, the gross typical score is 187 5/8. Jesse's whitetail is very even and only loses three inches in total. The final score is a whopping 184 5/8 typical points.



This front view shows us how magnificent this buck really is. You can also see that it's certainly very even.

Big Buck Magazine has likely run more stories on young hunters than any other hunting magazine out there. In the last few years it seems fathers everywhere are hanging up their guns and spending a tremendous amount of time on the deer trails with their sons and daughters. Not only are the youngsters shooting deer, they are actually taking some of the biggest whitetails and mule deer around. This pattern is becoming common across North America.

In 2009, Larry Haug of Outlook, Saskatchewan, was looking forward to taking his young son, Jesse, out to deer country. Little did he know that particular day would be a day they will never forget. Their chances of shooting a buck of the calibre they did was one in a million. Here is Jesse's story.

"I was sound asleep when my dad hollered at me to get up. Man, getting up sucks, but I quickly checked to make sure I had everything – rifle, ammo, warm clothing – and as I

walked to the door, I grabbed my book. Soon the truck was heading to one of our favourite spots to see if any deer were moving around.

“I had my nose in my book when Dad told me to put the book down as we were getting close. Soon I spotted a couple of deer near some trees. I hollered, ‘Hey, Dad, what about those critters?’ Dad grabbed the binoculars and suddenly got really excited. He told me to quickly get ready because the buck was a dandy. I got set up with my Tikka 6.5x55 and my shot echoed across the terrain. We heard a solid hit and the deer started running right towards us. I lined up the crosshairs on the giant once again and it was another solid hit. We couldn’t believe it when the buck took off running again and disappeared as it entered a stand of trees.

“We made our way towards where we had last seen him. After several anxious moments, it was with great relief when we saw him piled up. We waited a few minutes to make sure he was down for good. As we hurried towards him, his antlers seemed to get bigger with each step. My dad was speechless and all he could say was, ‘It’s a beauty, Jesse!’ He was right because I ended up winning the trophy for the biggest typical whitetail overall for Saskatchewan, along with top junior whitetail. The antlers score 184 5/8 typical points.” 🐾



Big whitetails like this are rare indeed. All photos by Larry Haug.