



*I.F. Interview for 2011 Champion – By Charles Barbieri*

## **DAN BUONAGURIO LOFT, Brooksville FL**

**I.F. HALL OF FAME**

**Young Bird Awards 2010**

**26-75 lofts 1st IF-10-FSI-219**

Danny Buonagurio was born in an area of New York called Harlem. Danny said, “ My dad had pigeons so it was only natural for me to follow in my dad’s foot-steps”. He flew his first race in 1960 having joined the Southern Long Island Club that first season. In those races, he came in second eight times and third once. Today, he flies in the FSI Club which is in Florida. The FSI flies in the Tampa Bay Combine. The only partner he really ever had was his mom. He flies under the loft name of M.and S. which stands for mother and son.

His original family of birds were Huyskens Van Riels from Dr. Whitney and George Shilton. Now he flies Hofkens and Vanloons. Danny likes to pair his breeders around February 15. He keeps 20 pairs of breeders, six of which are pumpers. His birds are mostly medium in size. When asked how he chooses his breeding pairs and if eyesign helps him select his pairs, Danny said he chooses his pairs by performance and bloodlines and he does not practice the art of eyesign. I also asked Danny if he does his breeding in individual cages and if he looks for a particular family to breed from. He said his top pairs are bred in individual cages and he is most concerned with performance and compatibility with his pigeons. He keeps one line straight by inbreeding and out crosses to race. When I also asked if he found his best pigeons by luck or by good judgement, he replied, “I found my best pairs by luck”.

We went on to talk about what championships he has won either in the club or nationally. He told me that he won the I.F. Hall of Fame three times. He also said he has come in fourth, fifth and seventh in the A U Champion Bird Competition. He added that he has won many club and combine average speeds. I asked Danny how big his combine or club is and if his position is a good one as far as the combine races are concerned. He told me his position is very good for the FSI club and the Tampa Bay Combine which has about 90 flying members.

I went on to ask Danny if he pairs opposite eyes and he reiterated that he pairs his birds by performance and bloodlines. He told me that opposite eyes didn’t matter to him because he is not a student of eyesign. He went on to say that he looks for pigeons with a strong back, a nice step in the wing, tight vents, medium-size and well balanced.

He gave me a little history on his champion bird along with his pedigree. Dan told me that the Hall of Fame winner flew 10 races in 10 weeks. He was in the Combine Point’s nine out of ten races. His father was bred for stock and he is an inbred Hofkens cock. His mother is a Vanloon from Tony Rossi of Wisconsin. The mother of this cock won diplomas when she was on his race team and she also bred a 400 mile winner.





## DAN BUONAGURIO LOFT, Brooksville FL (Continued)

Danny likes to use the natural system for training purposes.. He sends the same birds every week to the races. his birds. He said he is not a hard trainer. The birds are all trained together and he trains maybe twice a week. Before and during racing season he gets most of his medication from Mike Ganis. He treats for canker with Ridsol. For cocci, he uses Miracle Life every other week. He treats for worms when necessary. I also wanted to know how far he races his yearlings. Danny said,"I race my yearlings down to 300 miles and after the race I usually like to give them a bath."

We further talked about how many young birds he starts with every year on his race team. Danny said,"I usually start young birds with about 40 to 60 birds and I fly all my pigeons naturally." I asked him what systems he uses if he gets a sick bird and does he start to cure it when he starts training his young birds. He went on to say that if he gets a sick bird he may treat it but for no more than two days. I then asked him what the distance of his first young bird race was. He said,"The distance is 82 miles to me." He also said that once the birds are out 50 miles he doesn't find it a problem to ship the first race. He answered my questions about the feeding methods that he uses, if he breaks them down or if he keeps them hungry for control purposes. I also asked if he feeds them once or twice a day. Danny answered that his feeding methods are simple. He feeds them once a day all they want. He doesn't feel pigeons should be raced when they are hungry. Once the birds are raced, he may train them once or twice a week. He feels that's plenty. He may go 60 miles tops. In young birds, he likes to use the light system. Danny gives the birds light for 16 hours a day and in the middle of June the birds are put back on natural light.

My next group of questions had to do with how he selects his birds, at auction or the internet, if he prefers young or old birds and if he cuts flights or pulls tail feathers and if he has his birds finish with the molt when the races start. Danny told me, "I have always had good friends in the sport and through the years we have lent and traded pigeons. A pidgeon is nothing more than an egg. A good friend is a lot more. Through the years, I have found that my best pigeons were all gifts. I prefer young birds flying to old birds flying. I do cut flights and pull tail feathers. By the first race, my birds are fully molted and they can put all their effort into flying rather than growing feathers."

Here in Florida, Danny said they have a 20 bird limit. The reason for that is their trailers won't hold anymore. He doesn't believe in clocking limits nor does he think a pigeon should receive honors that it doesn't deserve. His flying loft is 52 feet long by 12 feet wide. He also has a 10 foot x 52 foot deck in front of his loft. He has 10 petitions with a 3 foot hallway. His breeding loft is 10 feet x 16 feet with an 8 x 10 foot flypen. He also has a rigid vent along the roof and jealousy windows along the whole front of his loft. He uses fans to pull the air out through the ridge vent.

I finished the interview by asking Danny if there was a flyer, reader or book that has helped him become a better pigeon flyer. He told me that through the years he has become very close to Tony Rossi and D&M Loft. Danny told me that they have helped him become a better pigeon man.

Danny finished the interview by saying, "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Board of Directors of the International Federation for being there and for helping anyone in need. I know their scholarship awards and national awards along with the Hall of Fame and Sky Talk take many hours as well as many days of work to accomplish. Every year Sky Talk gets better and better along with the beautiful Hall of Fame plates and Champion Loft plates. They are nothing less than beautiful."

