

2009 ROOKIE of the YEAR Enzo Di Re



Please call Enzo Di Re - Rookie of the Year - at 908-798-0587.
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Enzo Di Re (pronounced Dee Ray) has loved pigeons since he was a little boy growing up in Bound Brook, NJ. He built his first coop with the help of his mentor, Mr. John Romano, a flyer in the BB club, when he was 12 years old. A terrible flood in 1971 took his coop, his pigeons, and his dream of flying away.

After many years of waiting to fly birds again, in November of 2007, Enzo received 6 white homing pigeons as a birthday present from his fiancé, Theresa. These birds came from the local chicken auction in Hackettstown, NJ. They were nothing special, just some \$3.00 pigeons. It wasn't much, but it gave Enzo a reason to start his loft.

Enzo then found out that there was a local pigeon club, the North West Jersey Pigeon Club, and he joined. He was not able to race his first year, as his loft was not finished being built. But, the second year, 2009, the loft was completed enough for Enzo to be able to compete in the racing season.

During training and loft flying, Enzo lost a total of 38 birds, which left him with only a small team of 13 birds to fly with. Enzo lives in a mountainous area of Long Valley, NJ, which is the home to many hawks. His birds fell victim to these hawks. Once

again, he thought his dream of flying would be shattered. But, Enzo and his team pulled through. They were determined and persistent, and they prepared for the race season. And thus they were named the Fly or Die Loft!

In 2009, his dream finally came true! Enzo flew his first race on August 11, 2009. On his fourth race he placed 106th out of 3,325 birds from 212 lofts.

On his fifth race, he received his first and second CJC Diplomas by coming in 40th and 41st place out of 2,691 birds from 204 lofts. On his 8th race, he placed 49th out of 1,622 birds from 141 lofts. On his 9th race he placed 45th out of 2,186 birds from 171 lofts. He made 4th Overall Fastest Speed in his local club. He also made 50th Fastest Overall Speed in the CJC. At the end of the year, Enzo completed the season with only 11 of the 13 birds that the hawks had left him!

This rookie of the year did not act like one as he was confident and did more than his share of chores around the clubhouse. He was the main person who stepped up to transport the birds to the CJC trailer. He was often seen out training his birds, but what was unique is that he helped others train their birds, too. He even helped another rookie build his coop, gave him some pairs of breeders and even got him to participate in some YB races. This sport could use a few more people like Enzo, and then the sport would begin to grow again. The future looks bright for Enzo and nothing could possibly top his season better than this honor of being the 2009 I.F. Rookie of the Year.

Enzo would like to thank everyone in the I.F. for choosing him, as it is a great honor and one that will be cherished forever. •