



Wood-Mizer

Sawyer
Dave Scott

Tailman
Barry Kline

Log Scale
460

Sawing Time
26 min. 4 sec.

BF/HR
1,144

Net Yield
497

Percent Scale
108%

Percent Overrun
8%

Wood-Mizer LT70 HDD55-RX

SAWYER DAVE SCOTT had more than one agenda when he put the Wood-Mizer LT70 through its paces. Like the other participants, he was at the Shoot-Out to demonstrate the machine's capabilities, but he had something else on his mind—something that surprised and delighted the audience and even caught tailman Barry Kline off guard. More on that later.

Anyone who has been around the Shoot-Out has likely met Dave Scott. As he puts it, "I've been to every Shoot-Out ever held." Barry's years of experience—this was his fourth Shoot-Out—have taught him the importance of the layout, if he was to keep up with Dave and the mill's 55-hp Yanmar diesel engine. Barry described the setup, "We had the edger set at an angle to the mill so that we could quickly put all the finished lumber onto one pile and all

slabs and edgings onto another. That's the thing about the LT70, if I get behind a bit, I can let a few boards drop onto the table and not slow down the sawyer."

Dave set up the machine to cut toward him and drag back the boards to the tail end where Barry could quickly remove, edge, and stack them. Dave also placed the pedestal control stand to the side of the mill.

While Barry worked hard, he did not work long.

"In that configuration, the operator is unimpeded by material flow and has a better view of the cant," he explained.

The well-practiced duo had the mill throttled up and throwing sawdust before the last echoes of Shoot-Out official Tom Heidlage's starting signal had faded away. Other than

loading and turning logs, Dave pretty much kept the blade in the wood and left it to Barry to do everything else. "Especially with one guy tailing, it works you pretty hard," admitted Barry. While Barry worked hard, he did not work long. In less than half an hour—26 minutes, 4 seconds, to be exact—the mill and edger shut down and the last board dropped on the stack.

To account for stresses he often finds in hardwood lumber, Dave programmed the Accuset computer to cut on the thick side of the allowable lumber. He said afterwards that the computer cut the board thickness exactly the way he had programmed it, but five boards were rejected for being too thick. "It was operator error. I cut a little thick to avoid having thin boards if the wood moved on me," he recalled. "Normally, this is not

cause for reject."

The 497 BF that did wind up on the good pile was enough to yield 8% over log scale. The LT70 did this at a rate of 1,144 BF per hour—the only machine to exceed 1,000 BF per hour—and Dave makes no bones about coming to the Shoot-Out to cut for speed. "My theory is that if you don't finish your logs first, you're not going to win the day.

You've gotta finish your logs first."

As for the other item on his agenda, Dave put it to the audience this way, "The only thing we're trying to prove today is whether Barry is worthy to marry my daughter." When asked what they thought, the crowd responded with an overwhelming affirmative. ■



A PARTICIPANT IN **2009 THE GREAT PORTABLE SAWMILL SHOOT-OUT**