

BIG BUCK CONTEST

Top buck was blowing in the wind

By **NICK WAGNER**

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MILLERSTOWN — During the opening few days of the 2011 Pennsylvania buck season, area hunters were treated with weather that is not typical for the rifled deer season.

With 60 to 70 degree weather embracing Central Pennsylvania, the wind was the most important factor for Jason Detra, 39, of Thompsontown.

After sitting for the most part of the morning in Tuscarora Township, Perry County, Detra made a season-changing decision. That decision was to get up at about 9:30 and start to stroll through the thick woods he was hunting in.

In a blowdown portion of the woods Detra was hunting in, he knew that a monster buck that he had seen several times on his trail camera was hiding.

"I decided to go for a walk because the wind was perfect to go for a walk," Detra said. "I knew the deer was there and then I jumped him up."

At about 60 yards, one of the largest buck Detra had seen was making his way through the blowdowns as quickly as the terrain would allow him. Then, at about 70 yards, Detra busted out his Winchester .300 WMS and took his shot.

The buck was down.

Detra knew that there was a drop-tine buck patrolling the woods. But he didn't know if it was the one he had just shot.

"When I got up to it and saw it had the drop tines it was awesome," he said. "A lot of times the pictures make a deer look bigger and this was the opposite. This



Jason Detra, of Thompsontown, shot his largest buck on Nov. 29 at 11 a.m. in Tuscarora Township, Perry County, using a Winchester .300 short magnum rifle. The 13-point rack has an outside spread of 24 3/4 inches. He plans to have a shoulder mount done.

buck was bigger than I thought it was."

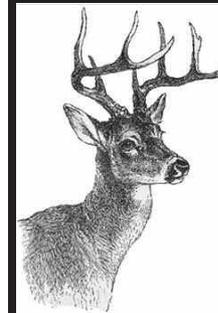
Detra's buck sported a 13-point rack with a 24 3/4-inch outside spread. Around the bases, each side was measured at 5 1/2 inches, a total that led to a victory in the adult division in The Sentinel's annual Big Buck con-

test. Turns out, the size of the antlers around the base of Detra's buck would prove to be the difference maker in the contest as the second-place finisher was just a point behind.

Because the deer was such a trophy, Detra had his slam-

mer scored on the Boone and Crockett scale for measuring the size of buck. This drop-tine giant totaled a gross of 179 inches and netted 174.

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