



Bailey's
EST. 1972

Importer/Distributor
Bailey's

Sawyer
David Bolstad

Tailman
Casey Comer

Log Scale
316

Sawing Time
35 min. 35 sec.

BF/HR
583

Net Yield
346

Percent Scale
109%

Percent Overrun
9%

Lucas 1030K

WHILE MOST OF the portable sawmills were being pulled in place with pickup trucks and forklifts, David Bolstad and Casey Comer very quickly and quietly wheeled in the Lucas 1030K mill by hand. David dismissed the muddy conditions. "We have a bit of rain in New Zealand. I'm used to it." After assembling the frame and setting the sawmill carriage—which included the headrig, a Kohler 30-hp motor, and a 24-1/2-inch circle saw blade—on the tracks, the Lucas team selected the first logs and rolled them in place.

As four-time Stihl Timbersports champion, David Bolstad is familiar to anyone who follows the competition. Lucas sawmill owners also recognize him as one of their own. When he is not training, he spends his time producing lumber by pushing his Lucas mill through 5-foot-diameter logs back home in New Zealand. This year, he teamed up with Casey

Comer, who is a chain saw mechanic for Bailey's. Casey worked with a Lucas mill as part of his family's business before joining Bailey's, and still uses one from time to time.

The 1030K is a new model. Although similar to the 830 Lucas mill run in the previous Shoot-Out, this model has the capability to cut 10 inches deep, and has a gas-filled strut to help steady the mill. Sitting inside a frame designed to mill a 5-foot-diameter by 20-foot-long log, the Shoot-Out logs looked like twigs. Even so, David and Casey took the task seriously, and showed the crowd some new techniques for swingblade milling.

For Casey's part, the strategy was simple. "All I had to do was pull the lumber off faster than David could cut," he explained. "David had a game plan, and he stuck with it." On the starting signal, David fired up the 30-hp Kohler engine, opened the

throttle, and put his game plan into action. “Dave cuts differently from the way I cut, which was actually a faster way to do it,” observed Casey. David and Casey had arranged the smallest three logs—all roughly 12-inch diameter—side by side inside the frame. David then proceeded to mill slabs off the tops of all three logs in a series of passes, and then took two boards off the tops, one layer at a time. Sawing across the tops saved time in setting the height adjustment of the carriage for each log. With all four logs shaved cleanly to the same height, he rolled them over so the flat side was down and they would be less likely to move during subsequent cuts. David says he uses this cutting pattern on smaller logs when he mills lumber back home. “It’s something that I do every day so that you don’t need to handle

the logs each time.”

As it turned out, pulling lumber off faster than David could cut was more work than Casey had expected. “David would actually run that mill up and down the track. He definitely had me sweating.” With the first three logs dispatched, David and

onds, for a cutting rate of 583 board feet per hour. Casey credits David’s technique of milling the logs flat and then turning them for improving the yield from the logs. Their final tally of 583 board feet was 9% greater than the log scale—a higher overrun than most of the band

“David would actually run that mill up and down the track. He definitely had me sweating.” –Casey Comer

Casey rolled the 16-inch-diameter final log onto the blocks, and in a short time had it milled into boards as well. Other than cutting wider boards, the mill handled much like the one David uses back home. According to Casey, the new gas strut was a little out of adjustment and bumped the log, causing the one miscut board on the stack.

The Lucas team finished their logs in 35 minutes, 35 sec-

saws were able to attain. And once finished, there was no waiting to bring in a truck. David and Casey simply disassembled the mill and returned it to the Lucas booth by hand. The swingblade operators in the crowd picked up a few new ideas for milling lumber at the show. “It is interesting to see how people cut in different parts of the world,” Casey noted. ■



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