

Making the whole operation work is the trainer and Fortune did it this year while dealing with her own battle.

“I found out on June 29,” said Fortune, “I had Stage 1 breast cancer.”

“In September, I began chemotherapy. I get that every three weeks. The radiation will start in February and will run to September.”

Fortune doesn’t mince words about the disease.

“It takes its toll since a trainer works a split shift,” Fortune said. “It wears you down, but, at times, I swear, I think the worst part is it kills your taste buds.”

Reflecting on the racing season, Fortune felt “our highlight was L TOOTIE. She won seven straight races early in the year and was ranked nationally, now more than four years old. She is amazing. She will probably finish with 180 career starts.”

Looming over everything is the closing of Bluffs Run.

“That fact is depressing,” said Fortune. “I love the greyhounds. I’ve decided that I am going to be done with the business [when the track closes in December 2015] and I am going to be with family.”

Trainers of the Year:

2015 - Lori Fortune
2014 – Phil Stapleton
2013 – Monte Hoopes
2012 – Lori Legg
2011 – Chuck Sheldon
2010 – Monte Hoopes
2009 – Ray Brownlee
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2006 – Ray Brownlee
2005 – Lori Fortune
2004 – Linda Willey
2003 – Don Conatser
2002 – Don Conatser
2001 – Joe Osborne
2000 – Jim Lovely
1999 – Jay Rangel and Jim Prescott
1998 – Tracy Nelson and Darlene White
1997 – Louise Strong
1996 – Andy Baker
1995 – Randy Montgomery
1994 – Jeff Grubbels
1993 – Mark Arno
1992 – Jeff Wilhite
1991 – Rich Tomlinson
1990 – Ron Mullen
1989 – Bill Henry
1988 – Marv Anderson