#3 BOTY - Dommie Veasey

When Dommie Veasey Jr. purchased an 18-acre tract abutting a large St. Johns Water Management District property in Marion County, he had no idea the deer he would take from those woods less than a year later.

He shot the non-typical 27-point buck measuring 171-5/8 inches on Nov. 3, 2024. The deer was less than six inches away from being an all-time top 10 deer on FWC's Florida Buck Registry.

And, if the buck hadn't broken off two horns a couple of weeks before Dommie made his shot, it just might have made the cut.

Either way, it's a buck of a lifetime.

Dommie bought the property the year before after hunting season, so he didn't get to hunt on it at the time.

"It's a little piece of property that's behind some houses," he said, adding that an easement allows access between two houses. "It butts up to St. Johns property, which nobody can hunt."

The monster buck didn't show up on any of his cameras at first, but then he put a camera up near the easement.

"I got him immediately, almost every night on camera," Dommie said.

Dommie figured he would never see the deer again, but he kept showing up every night.

The early photos didn't provide best angle, so Dommie didn't know at first what he had.

"I was able to put my cameras on video. That's when I started noticing all the drop tines and stuff," he said.

Dommie said he was able to catch a glimpse of the buck twice during bow season.

"I couldn't get a shot on him, because he was too out into the thick woods," he said.

"I bought the property off an old man who used to own a feed store in the area. He had it for 18 years, and he hadn't hunted it in three years, because of his age."

A power line runs through the middle of the property, and the previous owner had set up a shooting house there.

"That deer would not cross in front of that shooting house," Dommie said. "He would cross in between the houses that are on the back side. So, I put a ladder stand up 15-20 yards inside my property, looking at the back of the shooting house, and that's where I killed him."

When gun season started, Dommie couldn't hunt the first day because several of his neighbor's dogs had gotten loose the day before and ran through his property during the night.



DOMMIE VEASEY JR. KILLED THIS 27-POINT, 171-5/8-INCH NON-TYPICAL on Nov. 3, 2024, in Marion County. The Marion monster was less than six inches shy of Florida's all-time top 10. The buck had broken off two tines weeks before the hunt, damage that likely cost it a spot among the state's top 10. Even so, it stands as a once-in-a-lifetime Florida buck for Veasey.







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