

## Double Dirty Deer Hunt - Continued



*Cutter Campbell shows how to carry a rifle safely during the walking portion of a deer hunt.*

As we walked, I started pointing out tracks and droppings, not only of deer but also predators and all the different animals. We ambled along instead of walking as fast as we could to the tractor. The boys asked great questions, and it actually was turning into a really fun walk hunt. I think the kids learned a lot.

Every time we got close to a place I knew I had seen deer in the brush in the past, we slowed down so we could look with the binoculars. About half way to the tractor, we were coming around a corner very slowly when we saw two big adult does in the pasture about 50 yards from the brush.

Both of the boys leaned down, and Ridge chambered a round.

"Okay, guys, we're gonna try to shoot both of these does," I told them. We had to make a plan. One doe was closer to the brush than the other. Which would we try to take first, and why?

Talking in whispers, we discussed it, and decided to try for the doe nearer to the brush first. You see, if you shoot the one furthest out, the one near the brush will run in, but if you shoot the one closest to the brush, chances are if she drops, the second one might look curiously at the fallen doe instead of running, and even when she does, we have a couple more seconds since she's further out.

We practiced kneeling to take a shot with no rest to prop up the rifle. Then and only then did the two boys ease around the corner of the brush in front of me and take their shots. The boys made great shots and took both does cleanly.

Resurrecting a failed hunt and turning it into an adventure is something I know I will never forget, and I hope the two boys don't either. It was much more exciting than simply sitting in the stand shooting a deer that walked up.

We took photos, field dressed the

does, and then did eventually get the tractor and pull the truck out. We got home a little later than expected but we had a lot more fun, adventure and a really unique hunting experience for Mills County.

I can't remember exactly who it was, but a famous war general said once that no battle plan ever survives the first contact. It was sort of like that. Especially when you hunt with kids, you have to be flexible and roll with the punches. That way you, too, can turn a seemingly failed hunt into a success.



*Ridge Stegemoller and Cutter Campbell put on big smiles as they show off their Mills County Whitetail does.*



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