

Ultimate Piaffe's 20th Anniversary

Brings a Breeding Director's 1st

Twenty years ago the Ultimate Piaffe in Lake Oswego, Oregon, hosted its first ISR/Oldenburg N.A. Mare and Foal Evaluation. It was the beginning of a very successful relationship between a registry committed to education and the dedicated Pacific Northwest breeders. The goal has always been to produce

The truly beautiful Thoroughbred mare, Truly Prissy, by True Confidence out of Precious Priss, was an exciting example of the desirable type for sport horse breeding. The Stone Lily Farm mare earned an 8 for her head and scored 105 points and Premium mare status.

The other Thoroughbred to earn Premium status with 105 points was Blue Field Farm's Kootany Cool, by Cathedral Bells. Christian Schacht had glowing words of respect for the owners of the 20 year-old mare, with consideration of the soundness and health of the senior broodmare. Addressing the spectators, he spoke as a veterinarian, "What importance does a ribbon have if a horse pays with unsoundness later?"

It's more than his duty as Breeding Director that has endeared

Schacht to the Lake Oswego group. It's his obvious passion for horses that makes him so valuable to the registry.

When the 17.2 hand chestnut Oldenburg I Candy came pas-saging into the ring, Schacht could be heard saying "Wow!" I Candy, by Ideal out of Catinka, earned an 8 in swing and elasticity of movement and easily earned Premium status with 107 points and comments "She is a beautiful and impressive lady." I Candy is owned by FEI dressage rider/trainer Virginia Allen of Oak Stables, Langley, BC.



The Ultimate Piaffe's stallion, Ideal, enjoys his favorite day.

the highest possible quality and with record high percentages of Premiums, countless Top 10 Foals, and several of the countries #1 foals, the goal has been consistently met.

When ISR/Oldenburg N.A. Breeding director Christian Schacht arrived on August 23rd, he was prepared to evaluate quality, and, after the day came to a close, he wasn't disappointed. Schacht witnessed "One of the nicest babies I have ever seen in the United States." This colt would turn out to be a spectacular anniversary gift.

As tradition dictates, the morning started with the presentation of mares. In a group of 11 mares, five received Premium status and none of the others scored below 100 points. In an Ultimate Piaffe first, two ponies were presented for the ISR/Oldenburg N.A. Sport Pony book. The Welsh mare Wyndam Hills Little Queen and the half Welsh Cannons Majestic Miss Hepburn, owned by Kathleen Coombs, demonstrated sport horse movement that was appreciated by Schacht and the gathering of spectators.

The Oldenburg mare Ikaika, by Ideal out of Lotta Currency, traveled all the way from Incline Village, Nevada with Lynn Masin and her family. The grey mare showed tremendous consistency in her calm but powerful rhythm and her scores. "I prefer a more feminine head," said Schacht "but that's the only thing for which I can complain." Ikaika earned 105 points and Premium mare award.



Val Zeek's Premium Champion colt, Dragon Fly.

The 17 year-old imported Hanoverian mare Brenna, by Buenos Aires out of St. Pr. H. Goldlady, earned the spot as the highest scoring Premium mare with a remarkable 108 points. Barb Ayers' lovely mare carries very valuable blood, including that of the famous Goldstern.



Ideal

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Michelle Ives-Purdy



I Candy earned Premium Mare status with an over-all score of 107 points. The mare, owned by Virginia Allen of Oak Stables Langley, BC, is by Ideal and out of Catinka.



Ima Furyan, by Ideal and out of Ima Liza Jane, earned Premium Filly status with an overall score of 8.2. The filly is owned by Dale Ensign of Dun Walkin Farms in Sheridan, Oregon.



The colt, Ibarro, by Ideal and out of Larkson earned Premium status with an overall score of 8.3. Ibarro is owned by Dorothy Robinson of Creek Crossing Sport Horses in Kennewick, Washington.



Lynn Masin's Premium Mare, Ikaika, by Ideal and out of Lotta Currency. Lynn and Ikaika traveled from Incline Village, Nevada to participate in the Ultimate Piaffe's 20th inspection.

Of the 13 foals presented, eight received Premium awards. No matter where a foal ended in the line-up, Schacht took time to explain each score and carefully guided owners of foals with leg issues, recommending they consult with their veterinarian and farrier to correct the fault.

Five fillies earned a trip to the final Premium ring. Wasabi, by Winterprinz out of Bacall, took fifth place. Bred by Barb Crabbe of Pacific Crest Sport Horse, Schacht said the filly had a "super type" and earned a final score of 8.1 with an 8.3 in movement.

When Ima Furyan made her way around the arena her highly enthusiastic owners from Dun Walkin Farms just couldn't contain their excitement. Schacht said of the month-old filly, "A beautiful baby with wonderful quality and a very loud fan club." By Ideal and out of Ima Liza Jane, the filly earned a final Premium score of 8.2 with an 8.3 in both movement and overall impression.

The stunning Tiamo Tracadero filly Tinkerbelle, out of Midnight Heist earned praise from Schacht for her consistent quality. Bred by Heavenly Acres Farm, Tinkerbelle earned third

place with a final Premium score of 8.2 and 8.2 in all three categories.

The Reserve Champion filly award went to Rumor Has It SLF, by Redwine out of Secret Venture. Stone Lily Farm has presented several outstanding offspring over the past few years and Rumor Has It was no exception with her "very correct legs" and "well balanced movement." She earned a final score of 8.3 with 8.3 in type and overall impression.

Shadysprings Farm's Qua Sara, by Quinar out of Arabesque, took home the Champion Premium award with a final score of 8.3. "Qua Sara is quite nice with a wonderfully, typey face and super neck and shoulder," which earned her an 8.4 in type. Christian added that he hopes the next time he sees her she's fulfilling her destiny as a jumper.

In the final colt ring a great surprise awaited both Schacht and a first time warmblood breeder. The third place Premium colt, Ibarro, bred by Creek Crossing Sport Horses, and his dam Larksong, demonstrated an example of the abilities of an improvement sire. Although almost certainly of Thoroughbred blood, Larksong lacked proof of pedigree, so she was entered

into the Pre Mare book. What she lacked in movement, Ibarro's sire provided. "It just doesn't matter what you breed Ideal to," Schacht said of the colt's sire, "It's always improvement." Ibarro's effortless trot earned him the second highest movement score of the day, with an 8.6.

At a tender five weeks, the colt Farley, by the legendary sire Flemmingh, easily snapped up the Reserve Champion title. Bred by Blue Field Farms and out of Princess Diana, Christian Schacht and many spectators were inspired by Farley's "wonderful modern type" and Schacht added, "I was really impressed by the movement." Farley was awarded a final score of 8.3 and a movement score of 8.7, matching that of the highest-scoring foal.

As Val Zeek and her breathtaking black colt floated into the arena, the Donarweiss colt captured the crowd with his charismatic presence. Cheers erupted for his highly animated trot. As the buzz of excitement settled, Val and everyone else waited to hear from Christian. It seemed like a lifetime before he picked up the microphone. In a very calm tone he spoke, "the colt Dragon Fly has one big mistake," after a very long pause, he smiled and said, "He is not mine."

Relief washed over breeder Val Zeek. Generations of women had helped her realize this dream. Her grandmother rode a mare named "Butch" to school and started her own breeding program in 1958 by paying a fortune of \$600 for an Arabian filly. Later, Val's mother, Kathy, continued breeding Arabians using daughters of the original foundation mare. After Val went to live and work for the Ultimate Piaffe and became interested

in warmbloods, she selected the matriarch Thoroughbred mare Lotta Currency to use for breeding to Ideal. It was an easy choice and, with breeding on her mind, "I whispered into Lotta Currency's ear that I wanted a bay filly", Val confessed, "unbelievably I got a bay filly".

The three star Thoroughbred mare produced nine foals and all but one were Premium. Most of them are dressage horses, including F.E.I. and USDF Champions. It's fitting that Lotta Currency earned Premium status at the very first inspection in 1989. Lotta Currency's filly, Ivy, earned Premium status as a foal and as a mare. Val selected the black De Niro son, Donarweiss, and won the bid on him in the ISR/Oldenburg N.A. auction for Ivy.

The accomplished Green Gate Farm stallion, Donarweiss, and Ivy produced what Schacht called "a perfect baby." Schacht began reading off his scores, "an 8.7 in type" applause followed, "and an 8.7 in movement" more applause. Then Schacht turned to the audience on this 20th anniversary he was going to do something very special. "For the first time I am going to award my first-ever overall score of 9.0!" Genuine excitement and approval filled the air and, with a total of 8.8, Dragon Fly earned the year's highest score.

As always, the final event of the day was the presentation of the now 24 year-old imported Oldenburg stallion, Ideal. 20 is a significant number for Ideal, as 2009 marks his 20th year as an active breeding stallion. Wearing a sash representing his accomplishment, Ideal enthusiastically took charge of the arena on his favorite day of the year.

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