



A HUGE round of applause for all those who sent in photos from this keuring. Thanks Tass Jones Photography for sharing with us. For excellent west coast horse show photos go to: www.tassjones.com/index.html

High Fives for Judy Nishi who juggled horses, ribbons and camera to get these photos and pass them on to us!



Brando - new ster gelding - and- tied for #1 in the top-fives! (Photo: Caitlin Masiel)

2009 KEURING REPORTS - FIRST TOUR.

DG Bar Ranch– Hanford, CA

Host: Tony and Bette DeGroot, Willy Arts.

If it is keuring season, and west coast, then one of the stops will always be in the central valley of California. Literally the center: - 5 + hours north hits the Oregon border and 5+ hours south, Mexico. Pulling from both ends of the state (and often beyond) the entries here require 1 ½ to 2 days to evaluate.

And what can be said about DG Bar Ranch and hosts Willy Arts, and Betty and Tony DeGroot that hasn't been said a zillion times before and is heartfelt every time? Hopefully a simple 'thank you' will suffice here.

The Jury landed in Fresno to find relatively cool temperatures (big smiles! - normally 100+ degrees) and were ready to start the following morning with the linear scoring of the older horses. (A reminder that these reports will cover first premiums only).

Geldings-Dressage

The geldings led off with the first place, a first premium and ster going to **Brando** (Florencio out of Sierra Siren keur by Volckmar x Wanroj) bred by Luke S. Bianco MD and owned by Ashlyn and Amber DeGroot and DG Bar Breeders, Inc. The gray was solid in conformation showing light footedness, activity of joints and was uphill with suspension in his movement. (This pedigree represents over 25 years of DG Bar breeding with Volckmar and Wanroj being their first stallions).

The Register A gelding, **Bridger** (Frontal/Mezcalero by Voltaire out of Leontien ster, sport-jumping by Goodtimes and a ster sport-dressage mare by G. Ramiro Z) bred/owned by Stephanie Simmonds of Stillwater Equestrian, was originally entered in the jumper direction but was switched to dressage with appropriate scores to earn the second spot and will be a first premium and ster, pending his vet requirements. Bridger received an 8.5 for his uphill, scopey trot and an 8.0 each for canter and self carriage.

Geldings – Harness

WH Roux (b. Whazzup WH, Fabricius out of Lady Lard ster by Fortissimo x Uriant) bred by Windholme Farm and owned by Victoria Rea of Rea Equisports received an orange ribbon for his star. The canter was strong for a 7.5 and the trot and self carriage of 8.0 each brought smiles to all.

Mares – Dressage

Ten '3-7 Yr. Old' Dressage mares arrived next. Five finished successfully wearing the orange ribbon for their stars, with four designated keur eligible. Topping the group was a tie. #83 was **Armani** (Sydney out of Ramona by Weyden x Ahorn Z) bred by N.W.J. Krol and owned by DG Bar Breeders, Inc. The bay mare received solid scores for both conformation and movement, with extra marks for her trot. An easy ster and a keur eligible designation were assigned.

#84 was **Bling! SVS** (Prestige VDL out of Vittoria SVS keur by Krack C x Ferro) bred and owned by Jeanne Schamblin of Sierra Vista Sporthorses. Bling!'s dam is the lovely Vittoria SVS, winner of the Gert van der Veen award, and top in the country in her keuring year. Very uphill in stance, long lined, excellent feet, and with rhythmic movement to include an 8.0 for her walk, gave her a ster and keur eligible. These two mares also tied for second place in the "Top Fives".

The next two in the lineup tied as well. #80 was **Alympia SVS** (Rousseau out of Olympia ster by Idocus x Wanroij). Another entry and 'high five' for Jeanne Schamblin. This very modern, smooth top-lined mare carried a lower conformation score than her stable mate, due primarily to her light bone and narrower feet as well as a weaker walk. Her trot and canter showed cadence and rhythm.

#82 **Apollie** (Scandic out of Pollie by Lohengrin x Transvaal) bred by J. Rutten and owned by Lisabeth Rothman earned the same total as Alympia SVS but via different component scores. All were solid with her movement positively affected by her suppleness and articulation. Alympia and Apollie tied for 5th in the Top Fives.

Mares – Jumper

The Jumper Mare class was small but a 'stellar' entry, -as in orange, first premium - with **Borvelien DG** (Canturo out of Corvelien Z by Carthago Z x Cor de la Bryere) bred and owned by DG Bar Ranch standing in the first place. Earning an 8.0 for scope this grey mare was quick and eager in the chute, showing easy lead changes and a rhythmic canter. A smooth top line with good feet brought her an above average conformation score to earn the scores needed to also be eligible for the keur predicate pending veterinary requirements for an erkend pedigree.

The mare **Balenciaga SVS** (Contester out of La Que Sabe by Cicero x Lejoli xx) bred and owned by Jeanne Schamblin of Sierra Vista Sporthorses. This attractive mare was entered in the Hunter class, but the jury suggested she be switched to Jumper. Her conformation was not quite harmonious enough for a hunter type and her quick (8.0 for reflexes) served her better as a jumper. Just missing the 7.5 in movement needed for star, this mare can earn that predicate in the future upon conclusion of a successful IBOP.

IBOP-Dressage and DG BAR CUP

Following lunch, everyone settled in for the under saddle classes - the IBOP's and the DG Bar and Iron Spring Farm Cups. Remember, dear readers, that due to the stamina needed for these classes and their young entries, the Cups' requirements have been combined with the IBOP's as the second half of each. Refer to: <http://www.kwpn-na.org/keuring/procedures.php>. The ring size is always reduced to 20 x 40 (dressage IBOP/DG Bar Cup) for the same reason.

As the initiators and sponsors of the DG Bar Cup for young dressage horses, the turn out for IBOP's and the "Cup" classes at this location is always good. It is a terrific opportunity for the Jury, breeders and audience to see "How the Children Have Turned Out". The fifteen entries for the DG Bar Cup broke out as follows: 5 3-yr. olds, 4 4-yr olds, 6 5-yr olds. The dressage IBOP tested 9 mares in combination with the DG Bar Cup.

The results for those DGBC entries with scores over 70 were as follows:

Three Year Olds- DGBC

Showing good use of shoulders and limbs, with good balance and engagement was the bay gelding **Bad Boy** (Olivi out of Lotte keur by Damiro B x Caritas). Bred by M. Tijssen and now owned by Dantia Benson, this young saddle horse received 8's for walk, trot, balance and suppleness as well as over-all impression to finish with the handsome and prestigious DGB Cup cooler and neck ribbon. But wait! That's not all. Bad Boy clinched the top spot for ALL 3-year olds winning the overall DGBC Championship for this age group.

Bling! (mentioned above) had given promise in her linear scoring and free movement, and that promise was kept under saddle. This elegant mare (Prestige-VDL out of Vittoria SVS keur by Krack C x Ferro) showed some tension throughout affecting her walk and trot scores, but with a 'let's get going!' in her canter an 8.5 was easily given. An 8.0 for balance and suppleness plus overall impression brought smiles yet again for owner/breeder Jeanne Schamblin. Bling! also grabbed #2 in the Top Fives.



*Bad Boy was good and wore the blanket home!
(Tass Jones Photography)*



*Bling! Keeping her promise
(Joel Neel photo)*



Armani -winner of 4-Year-Old DGBC and tying for 4th place in Top Fives. (Judith Nishi photo)



Zsunami & his new ribbon; not aware that he would be 1st in the Top Fives!. (Joel Neel photo)



Zion JC struttin' his stuff (Cally Matherly photo)

Third place went to **Brando** (mentioned above). In walk and trot, Brando needed more out of his shoulder, but his canter was in uphill balance and although slightly slow in tempo, showed good articulation in his hocks to earn an 8 for that gait. Balance, suppleness and overall impression tucked him in just behind Bad Boy and Bling!. In the Top Fives, Brando was tied for 4th.

Four Year Olds-DGBC

1. **Armani** (Sydney out of Ramona by Weyden x Ahorn Z) led off the line-up. This bay mare the jury had seen earlier for studbook inspection where she had earned her keur eligible on her quality and movement. For this mare, bred by N.W.J. Krol and owned by DG Bar Breeders, her solid scores with 8's for her canter and her balance and suppleness carried her to the top of the group.

2. **Adjedorijke** (Rousseau out of Rodazdorijke by Jazz x Wellington) bred by P.W.T.J. Pansier, owned by DG Bar Breeders, Inc, just squeaked into this second slot. In the trot, the bay gelding lacked some freedom and swing through the body, but showed a better uphill, engaging canter.

3. Ever so close behind was **Aterma DG**, a Reg A mare (Thatcher x Erma keur by Sultan x Joost) bred and owned by DG Bar Breeders, Inc. This grey mare showed a wonderful walk to earn an 8.0 for that gait, but the trot and canter needed more engagement.

Five Year Olds-DGBC

1. In first place was the chestnut gelding **Zsunami** (Rousseau out of Rubicon by Damiro x Taxateur) bred by Carrie O'Brien and owned by Ariane Rezvani. The correct, supple walk with shoulder swing and 'march' earned a 9.0! In trot the suppleness was almost too much, causing a lack of activity and forwardness taking the score down to a 7.0. The same lack expressed itself in the canter but the balance was apparent in this gait to give the canter score ½ point above the walk. (Of note - the balance and suppleness score in the DGBC class was a 7.5; whereas in the IBOP Zsunami was given an 8 for suppleness and a 7.5 for Self Carriage and Balance. This was due to the lateral movements asked for in the DGB cup (in which the gelding was resistant.) and thus the IBOP was scored a 78 and the DGB Cup a 76.)

2. The bay gelding, **Zorba S.E.** (00 Seven out of Natuur ster by Wanroij x Oran) bred by Siegi Belz-Fry of Stall Europa and owned by Lori Larson, displayed the silhouette of his dam line, being somewhat long bodied and of older classic type, but used it all well with easy movement, freedom of shoulders, and suspension. Zorba S.E. maintained a steady quiet tempo in trot and canter work, the latter earning an 8.0. (Of note is that Zorba S.E. won the DGB cup for 4-yr olds in 2008 in Virginia).

3. Tied with Zorba SE was the bay mare, **Zamerica DG** elite (Sandor Jane out of Olympia by Zeoliet x Wanroij) bred and owned by Judith Nishi. An 8 for her walk, which was active and articulated well, set a standard for the mare which unfortunately was difficult for her to maintain. In trot and canter the Zamerica DG became quick in her extensions which lowered those scores a half a point each. The overall impression was the mare has more to show for the future. Zorba S.E. and Zamerica DG ended tied for third in the overall Top Fives.

IBOP-Dressage

The IBOP's for the above horses resulted in **Zsunami** (with a 78) earning a star (using the IBOP/DGBC as the movement portion of his linear scoring) as well as **Bling!** and **Armani** becoming keur mares with 77.5 and 76 respectively. In the Top Fives these three were high as well, with Zsunami tying for first(!) place, Bling! in third and Armani tied for fifth.

IBOP – Harness

A treat for all spectators was the IBOP Harness class for the stallion **Zion JC** (Patijn out of Roodnoot-Kea ster by Modern x Graaf Wouter) bred and owned by John and Carol Nemchick. This handsome bay stallion exudes the presence required of all Harness Horses. All his scores were solid, with an 8 for enthusiasm for Zion JC to retain his Licensed status. - and finished in the first place in the Top Fives.



*Opa's Café
(Judith Nishi photo)*



*Evanta III MMW showing her
movement in the 'foal oval'.
(Judith Nishi photo)*

Party Division!

The afternoon ended with everyone standing, stretching and rubbing bottoms, to then be lured to the impressive viewing room redesigned into "OPA's ("grandfather" - Tony's) Café'. A full commercial kitchen spilling over with incredible baked goodies and hors d'oeuvres of every description as well as an open bar soon had all attendees chattering, comparing, questioning and -of course, as wherever horse people are gathered - pontificating.

Foals, Weanlings and Two-Year Olds - Dressage and Jumper

The next morning was reserved for the youngsters, and as usual, the excitement to see new combinations had all spectators hanging on the rail with cameras and catalogs at the ready.

The foal classes here are large and anywhere else would be unwieldy. The area designed specifically for this is brilliant. An inner oval was constructed (with the jury in the center) for the foal to move freely, with an outer oval for the mare. (See photo) The mesh between the two allows the foal to feel secure with the dam near (and vice versa), protects the handler from any double-shots from the foal if it gets ahead, as well as providing the jury with an unobstructed view of the foal since it cannot dodge behind the mare. In this fashion, it is efficient and safe for all. The mare and foal are taken two times around, allowing the baby to be comfortable on the second go-round so they really show their stuff and become more independent and brave.

Go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPy4ZskfYII (or copy and paste).

Dressage Foals

Eleven high quality dressage foals were first on the schedule for evaluation with the orange first premium ribbon going to nine. They are, in order of placement.

1. **Evanta III MMW** (UB 40 out of Vivanta SHB elite by Sandro Hit x Wellington) bred and owned by Merijane and James Malouin of Malouin Manor Warmbloods. The striking black filly was well-developed with the lovely front that we're seeing from UB 40 offspring. Upward and lightfooted in movement with activity and balance, this filly's movement was slightly higher than her conformation score which reflected her light bone and deep set under-neck. When all was said and done Evanta III MMW finished #4 in the top-five lists.

2. **Eclipse DG**, a handsome bay Reg. A colt (Devon Heir out of Shannondoah ster by Farmer x Volckmar) bred and owned by DG Bar Breeders. Elegant in type, the movement of this colt showed suspension and upward self-carriage. (Note - Devon Heir is a De Niro x Rubinstein stallion that stands at DG Bar Ranch thus providing a fresh semen alternative to frozen for breeders in these challenging times).

3. **Elbria** (Devon Heir out of Windemere DG by Polansky x Doruto) bred and owned by Faith Fessenden. This lovely chestnut filly stood resolutely with well developed, good conformation and moved with upward power and suspension. (Note: the granddam is Colimbria (Doruto x Amor) a keur preferent mare that was the full sister to Olympic Barbria).

4. Tied for the 4th spot was **Everlast DG** (Farewell III out of Ultima DG ster x Wagner) bred and owned by Sandra Harper of Airpegasus Sporthorses. This grey colt was well developed and uphill on long legs. In movement he showed good technique and an especially good canter.

4. The other 4th place was **Encore SVS**, an elegant, leggy, bay filly (Sir Sinclair out of Alympia by Rousseau x Idocus) bred and owned by Jeanne Schamblin of Sierra Vista Sporthorses. Encore's neck was long but lacked optimum top-line and her cannons and joints lacked substance. Her movement however, was active and light-footed showing good foreleg technique and a good canter.

6. **Elixir COF** (Rousseau out of Whimzee by Wolkentanz x Bolero) was second to Evanta III in movement score showing good technique, self carriage and suspension. However the bay filly's conformation score took a hit due to her small stature. Even though she was born in late June her development should have been more, especially in her back. Nevertheless, her presence and movement was lovely and was scored accordingly.

7. **Eros MMW** (UB 40 out of Venus Da Malo by Metall x Argus) bred and owned by Merijane and James Malouin, had the same scoring variations as Elixir, with his movement bringing home the orange. The elegant chestnut colt was somewhat short in his foreleg as well as his haunch muscle; however his movement showed good technique and lift although he could have been freer out of his shoulder.

8. **Ember MVS** (Westpoint out of Lumara keur pref sport-dressage by Flemmingh x Ahorn) is a dark bay filly bred and owned by Jackie Ahl-Eckhaus, Mtn. View Sport Horses. The filly was solidly built in body type and neck with rather light legs. Her movement was light-footed and upward with suspension.

9. **E. Landlunar** (Rousseau out of Lady Kaye by Landwerder x Duc de Normandie) bred and owned by Michael and Teddy Healy. This black-bay colt was another smallish June foal standing high behind at this time, thus affecting his conformation score. The jury was pleased to see his correct legs, and in movement they carried him well and with good technique. Uphill, with suspension and elasticity the colt use of hind legs brought his movement score significantly higher.

Jumper Foals

1 The jumper foals came next with **Evelien DG** (Mr. Blue out of Corvelien Z by Carthogo Z x Cor de la Bryere) bred and owned by DG Bar Breeders giving a good impression. This grey filly was well developed with a lovely shape to her top line. The canter was solid to give her first place in the class.

2. Second was **Elan KF** (Judgement-ISF out of Aschenputtle) bred and owned by Barbara Zylbert. This bay colt was quite elegant with a good shoulder and withers. Wishes were for a little more muscling along his neck's topline.

The lone entry for Dressage Yearlings was **Dior** (Idocus out of Regina by Riverman x Macho Hombre) bred and owned by Jeffery and Candace Bastow of Bella Stables. A very smoothly built youngster, the dark grey filly left the jury wanting to see more movement in the future.

Chepeta Rose (Burgraaf out of Leontien ster sport-jumping by Goodtimes x G. Ramiro Z) bred and owned by Stephanie Simmonds of Stillwater Equestrian was our only two-year old jumper entry. The condition and size (born in July) of the bay filly was somewhat lacking but her movement was solid to bring her an orange ribbon as well as the # 2 placings in the top fives.

Whew!! Time to close up shop on this report and as did the jury, head on to Washington State.



Evelien DG as top jumper foal.

(Note: Many of these lovely horses are for sale. See page 22 in the keuring program, or go to page 22 in:

<http://www.kwpn-na.org/display/files/program09.pdf>).