



An enormous round of applause to photographer **Renee Miller** for her extraordinary collection of photos from which she allowed us to 'choose and use'.



Armani prok, earning his scores for number one in Top Fives

2009 KEURING REPORTS - SECOND TOUR.

Claybrook Farm – Ithica, MI

Host: Waino Pihl and Susan Taylor

Jury: Bart Henstra, Dr. Deborah P. Harrison, Faith Fessenden.

Michigan brought several 'firsts' for us. This stop was one of two locations for the 2009 KWPN-NA Education Seminars scheduled for the day preceding the keuring; - and - Bart Henstra just missed being on file in the Lansing police data banks.

The latter we MUST put to rest first. Merely missing a 'no left turn' sign in the pitch black night and an overzealous police officer, caused us all a moment of alarm, only to be relieved by laughter when waved on due to the officer not being able to decipher a Netherlands driver's license.

Second. The understanding, practice, and enjoyment of the inspection process were tenfold for those education seminar participants. A lecture on history, pedigrees, veterinary considerations, the ins and outs of the linear score sheets were followed by a good question and answer session....and that was just the morning! The afternoon found the participants diligently evaluating horses in stance and movement to include jumping for those horses so designated. We urge all members to take advantage of these seminars in the future wherever they are held.

The final of the 'firsts' was an enjoyable evening with our keuring hosts, Waino and Susan, their son and friends. [At each keuring site we look forward to any extra time we might squeeze out to have 'normal' - or perhaps if the topic does NOT involve horses it should be termed "abnormal - conversation and relaxation with hosts and participants.] We've never had that opportunity at Michigan in the past. Waino (pronounce 'way-noh') last name Pihl (pr. 'peel' Finnish) kept us rapt with his stories of world wide banking practices - good time for THAT, right?...and shared his and Susan's studies for implementing European style horse raising. Their Claybrook Farm replicates in many aspects the attention spent in the Netherlands on the development of the young stock - from ages grouped together in large, open-to-the-outside stalls, to optimum hay mixes grown on their own fields. Amish builders are also frequently employed for their craftsmanship on the farm.

So with those noteworthy events covered, let's proceed to the horses!

Dressage Geldings

Five bull's-eyes began the day via linear scoring for conformation traits and free movement: a single entry, a first place, a first premium, a ster, - and - a tie for first place in the Top Fives went to **Armani prok** (Special-D out of Olivia Elite by Idocus x Boreas) bred and owned by Lana Sneddon of Stonecrest Farm. Measuring 180cm, this well built rectangular and uphill gelding truly 'fills the eye'! In movement too, Armani is special with 8.0's for both his canter and his self-carriage.



Ulottie, waiting to free-jump her way to ster another year



Belsjarona movin' out for her new 'ster' predicate



The elegant Zomica W in-hand



Bi Bi JP in IBOP test

Dressage Mares

Three dressage mares lined up next for their 'going over'. All three were entered in the studbook with one advancing to first premium and 'ster'. That mare was **Basho SCF** (Jazz out of Olivia Elite by Idocus x Boreas) bred by Lana Sneddon and owned by Anne Schmidt of Tam Farm. No, dear reader, that is not a typo from Armani's pedigree above. This is the same dam. Now preferent, thanks to these kids. The Jury noted that Basho SCF is a fit mare, with lean legs, but narrow feet. Her shoulder is somewhat straight and her croup quite sloping. In body direction she was more horizontal, which did reflect somewhat in her movement, however all gaits were solid with her canter a standout to earn an 8.0. She was not eligible for keur due to the few points noted on conformation and the need for more uphill direction.

Jumper Mares

A smaller entry than usual here this year saw only one mare getting ever so close to the ster. **Ulottie** (Goodtimes out of Roklahoma by Calvados x G. Ramiro Z) bred by Mari Rooijackers and owned by Tracy Geller of Six Pound Farm. Unfortunately, the handsome bay mare had a foal at side that did not want 'Mom' to complete her free-jumping evaluation. We await the opportunity to see her in the future. The Jury noted the quality and substance of her bone and well-shaped and well-placed neck. Her canter was good and earned an 8.0.

Harness Mares

Belsjarona (Harmonie out of Sjaronica by Majesteit x Monarch) bred by Clarke and Karen Vesty, Vesty Show Horse and owned by Drs. Joe and Lisa Sanfelippo of Traumerei Farm left no doubt that she had driving blood in her background. The well built, smoothly connected bay mare showed the typical power and suspension of her pedigree, earning the requisite points for first premium and ster - and - was number two in Top Fives!

Ster Mare Evaluation for Keur Eligibility

Bred by H.A. Heijmerink and owned by Susan Thome of Winterspring Farm, the lovely black ster mare **Zomica W** (Ferro out of Monica ster by Havidoff x Doruto) was presented for keur-eligibility. Special notes were made on her good shoulder and withers. In Greek mythology it was said that the god's were jealous of physical perfection, so to keep her from their glare, small remarks were made on Zonica W's forelegs: some back-at-the knee and tied-in. After viewing her movement in hand (which was better than free), reviewing her prior IBOP scores and noting the improvement in her test scores mentioned below the Jury awarded the predicate of Keur to her.

IBOP - Dressage

The single 3-Yr-Old entry for the IBOP showed her owner, Susan Thome of Winterspring Farm that it was worth 'getting on with it' for this young bay mare. Bred by Peggy and Jim Mills of JP Farm, **Bi Bi JP** (Sir Sinclair out of Sidra ster by Idocus x Ulft) showed easy movement, clarity in her gaits, especially her walk, but she could have been a little quicker behind. Special notes were on her rideability which easily earned her an 8.0. Having seen her in the linear scoring and free movement, it was gratifying to see her do better under saddle. Her conformation score kept her from her ster, but since Bi Bi JP is only three, we look forward to her later development.

Two 5-Yr-Olds performed their IBOPs with only one garnering the 75 points needed to be included in this report. **Zomica W** (see above) was beautiful in her under saddle silhouette. Her gaits were solid with 8.0's for her canter, suppleness and rideability.



Armani showing the way during the DG Bar Cup Class



Akina Field CBF warming up and thinking, "Isn't it supposed to be higher?"



Ahme P thinking the same thing as the ISF Cup began.



Eragon looking like a pro in the 'rondstappen' (walk-around)

DG Bar Cup

For this class, several horses are worked together in the ring with movements called out. It is a very educational class for the young horses and especially for the spectators.

For the 3-Yr-Olds **Bi Bi JP** (see above) was joined by **Bently SCF** (Sir Donnerhall out of Tamora keur by Ferro x Notaris) bred and owned by Lana Sneddon of Stonecrest Farm. Bi Bi JP's scores were unchanged from the IBOP portion. Bently SCF earned solid 7.5's for his gaits, balance and suppleness, conformation and overall impression, with an 8.0 assigned to his canter. This performance gave Bently SCF the first place as well as third place in the Top Fives.

Two 5-Yr-Old mares joined 4-Yr-Old **Armani** (see above) in the ring performing their respective movements for the DGB Cups. The 5-Yr-Old **Zomica W** (see above) was first place in her age group and tied with three other horses for third place in the Top Fives. Armani smoked it with 8.0's for canter, balance and suppleness, and overall impression to win the Championship title for his age group in the Top Fives.

IBOP-Jumpers

The 4-Yr-Old jumper IBOP class came next. **Akina Field CBF** (Goodtimes out of Pikina Field keur by Corland x Pele) bred and owned by our keuring hosts Waino Pihl and Susan Taylor of Claybrook Farm, showed her quality. Beginning with an 8.5 for her wonderful canter, jumping was easy for the bay mare, with solid 7.5's on scope, rideability, reflexes and talent. This performance gave her the new predicate of keur since all other requirements had been completed.

Iron Spring Farm Cup

Joining **Akina Field CBF** for the 4-Yr-Old ISF Cup was **Ahme P** (Ahorn out of Rumpole Prima by Ferro x Double Leader xx) bred by Prima Equestrian and owned by Sakura Hill Farm, LLC and Karen Pollardy. Showing easy self carriage and balance this mare was noted for her attitude and her rideability, showing almost a hunter-like presence. Akina Field won the class plus took second place in the Top Fives...with Ahme P on that same list in fourth place.

Foals/Weanlings - Dressage

Four babies, three beside their dams, and one in hand (having been weaned) showed themselves to the KWPN-NA world for the first time. Three earned first premiums. The fourth was the weanling which was handicapped by the stresses of separation and did not show well.

In the first place was the Reg. A, **Eragon** (Wamberto out of Savanna keur by Welt Hit II x Jazz) bred and owned by Ada van de Kolk. This elegant well-developed colt received remarks on his proportions and super withers earning a 7.6 on his conformation and his movement went beyond, garnering a 7.8.

A tie for second was broken with the 'nod' going to **Emmett P** (Rousseau out of Zhin Zhin Balia SHB ster by Chin-Chin x Burggraaf) bred by Klaas and Mares Vanderploeg. This long-lined and well-developed colt earned solid marks on conformation and movement.

The other second place was **Encore** (Bugatti Hilltop out of Tesana ster by Contango x Consul) bred and owned by Michael and Evelyn Hobbs of Carousel Farm. This youngster was one of the highest scored on the tour for conformation: presence, beautiful front, good shoulders and withers, leggy and with good bone earned an 8.2; however, his movement, at this time, left the jury hoping for more in the future.



Emmett P showing everyone what the Jury means by 'uphill'



Encore waiting to begin



Encore CBF 'breezing' for his 1st premium, 1st place and 1st in Top Fives



Eastwood SPF and his lovely dam Ulottie

Foals/Weanlings - Jumper

This location in past years has often served up a Top Five jumper foal. This keuring was no exception with the bay colt **Encore CBF** (Indoctro out of Pikina Field keur by Corland x Pele). Presence, a super shoulder and wither with bone appropriate to his body, the Claybrook Farms bred colt moved easily through his body and showed great balance and quality at the canter. Like a gymnast landing off a vault with panache, the colt regally accepted his accolades: an 8.2 for conformation and an 8.0 for movement, Best Young Horse at this location - and the number one Jumper Foal in the Top Fives this year.

Placing second in this class was **Eastwood SPF** (Cathalido out of Ulottie (see above) by Goodtimes x Calvados) bred and owned by Tracy Geller of Six Pound Farm. A May foal, this bay colt was somewhat small, but well proportioned through his body. His attractive neck shape worked as it should in the canter, contributing to the dynamics of quality and efficiency in this gait resulting in a movement score of 77.

The third orange ribbon went to **Elite Field CBF** (Silverstone out of Akina Field CBF ster [see above] by Goodtimes x Corland) bred and owned by Claybrook Farms. [Note: the dam of the #1 foal is the grandam here. Nice bloodline, Claybrook has going!] Also, slightly small in development for his age the chestnut colt had a good shoulder and wither, but there were remarks on legs. His movement pulled in the higher score showing balance in his gaits.

Yearlings: Dressage

The single entry here was big framed, leggy youngster who showed suspension and suppleness for breeder-owner Michael and Evelyn Hobbs of Carousel Farm. Bringing them the orange first premium ribbon was their **Dolce Vita** (Sir Sinclair out of Mystic keur by Consul x Uniform).

Yearlings: Jumper

Three yearlings were evaluated in this class with the single first premium given to **Donnaludine** (Whitaker x Naxludine by Lux) bred by G. and M. Hop, owned by Equine Holdings, LLC. Standing solidly on all four legs this well-built youngster showed good bone, shoulder position and a long hip combined with solid movement.

Saying farewell to all, the Jury packed up once again for the drive to Detroit (Motor City aka Motown) to catch the next plane. While on the road we telephoned the KWPN-NA office to give the results for immediate web posting so that no one could say they (sing along) "Heard it Through the Grapevine".

(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>).