



KWPN
NORTH AMERICA

HARNESS HORSE NEWS

Hello! We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and enjoying the summer season. This issue is packed with lots of content including Harness Horse Stallion winning results and a special guest article from Brynne Varvel featuring horse photography by Claudia Harris. We encourage you to connect with Brynne and Claudia at their respective websites for more details about their services. Please see below direct contact information.

With thanks,
KWPN-NA Harness Committee

Brynne Varvel

VarvelSportHorses.com

317-931-8399

BVarvel99@hotmail.com

Claudia Harris
PHOTOGRAPHY .com

(813) 340-9796 claudiaharris1215@gmail.com

Treasure Hill Stables

By Erin Shea and Bill Duffy

Growing up on an Amish farm, working with horses and ponies was just a way of life for Raymond Stolzhus, owner of Treasure Hill Stables in Morgantown, PA. Raymond found work as a farrier as he got older, and little did he know, it would lead to a lifelong passion with Dutch Harness Horses.

In the early 2000's, Raymond was shoeing in a barn that had a stallion by the name of Ulrich von Winson. It was this horse, a Balmoral son, that first captured Raymond's interest in the breed. During this time, the popular breeds in the area continued to be Morgans, Halfingers, Saddlebreds and Standardbreds. Around 2008, the prominence of those breeds started to dim, making room for a new breed of horse to start influencing the market.

In 2012, there was a big herd dispersal sale in Indiana, with several high quality Dutch Harness mares selling. Shortly after seeing such a nice group of horses representing the breed, Raymond bought his first Dutch Harness Horse through David Beachy. She was a black 2 year mare named Fieke, by Baanbreker out of the Roy M mare Astrid.



Fieke

Raymond found some quick success with this special mare. In 2013 when she was 3 years old, he presented her at the KWPN-NA keuring at Windy Knoll in Sullivan OH, where she was the highest scoring 3 year old. He returned a year later to present her for her Keur predicate, where she succeeded easily. However, it is Kiralonda, a mare by Globetrotter out of Alonda (Talos x Roy M) that he is most proud of. She is a beautiful chestnut mare with four white legs, a unique stripe on her face, and the true show ring presence that every breeder hopes for. This homebred mare was presented by Raymond and received both her Ster and Keur predicates. It truly is a special feeling when you can have such great success with a horse bred and trained yourself. She also found success in the show ring, winning the Fine Harness Cup at the Rocky Ridge Stables KWPN Keuring in Narvon, PA in 2019.

This has been an exciting year at Treasure Hill Stables, with three lovely foals born. Alonda and Kiralonda both foaled stud colts by Jaleet (Atleet x Plains Liberator), and Feike had a foal by Waldemar (Patijn x Joviaal). Though Raymond is excited about all of these foals, he is particularly excited about the beautiful bay Alonda son, perfectly marked with four white legs and blaze.



Kiralonda

As Raymond continues to breed and train Dutch Harness Horses, he keeps his eyes on the quality of horses that The Netherlands is creating. He respects the KWPN for the quality of their horses, their presentation and approval processes, and the guidelines they create for their breeders. While he doesn't see himself buying a breeding stallion, Raymond's ultimate goal is to breed and raise a stallion of high enough quality to match that of the stallions being approved in The Netherlands.

Looking to 2021, Raymond has Alonda bred to Jaleet, Fieke to Waldemar, and Kiralonda is bred to Delviro (Vulcano x Waterman), a stallion recently imported from The Netherlands by Rocky Ridge Stables in Narvon, PA. Astrid (Roy M x Opgenoort) will be bred to the imported hackney stallion Woodbridge Denver.

It will be exciting to follow Treasure Hill Stables, and their breeding program in the upcoming years, with their quality mares and variety in stallion selection. We look forward to following him and his successes!

Harness Horse Stallions & Their Offspring in Sports

KWPN breeding goal for harness horses is clear: we want to breed harness horses that can perform at the highest level in show sports. To achieve that goal, breeders make a considered choice for a stallion. They try, in that way, to breed a foal that will be able to stand out in the honorary class of the show sport, with a conformation, character and movement that supports that. To see which sires were able to produce offspring with at least 50 winning points in show sport, we dug into our data. Also, we moved the ladder a bit to see if the list with sires that produced the most offspring with 100 points or more differs a lot.

The stallion selection program with KWPN is built up in a way, that we hope to end up with those stallions for breeding, that can make the biggest genetic contribution to the next generations of harness horses. For that reason, it is interesting to evaluate to which extent the stallions that were approved in the past were able to do exactly that. The KWPN approved stallions that were taken into account, were born in 1990 or later. In total, 384 horses descending from such a stallion were able to collect at least 50 winning points. Those horses have 72 different sires. Only stallions that were approved, are considered in this analysis.

MANNO ON TOP

Looking at absolute numbers of offspring that earned at least 50 winning points, it will not surprise anybody that the outstanding stallion Manno (s.Fabricius) is in the lead with 94 offspring. He is followed by Patijn (s.Kolonel) with 22 sons and daughters and he is closely followed by Larix (s.Fabricius) with 21 offspring. The other stallions in this top 10 are well-matched. The youngest stallion in this list is Cizandro (s.Waldermar) on the shared 7th place.

| | | | |
|-------|--------|-------|--------------------|
| 1. 94 | MANNO | 5. 14 | PLAIN'S LIBERATOR |
| 2. 22 | PATIJN | 6. 13 | ROY M |
| 3. 21 | LARIX | 7. 12 | CIZANDRO; SAFFRAAN |
| 4. 14 | JONKER | 8. 10 | LORTON; REFLEX M |

SURPRISING TOP 10

When we compare the number of offspring with 50 winning points or more to the total number of offspring of a sire, we see a surprising top 10. This is partly due to the fact that some of these stallions have produced only limited numbers of offspring, so that one or a couple of well-performing offspring make their percentage skyrocket.

Renovo-son Milano, who comes to a percentage of 11,3 thanks to 7 performing offspring with only 62 foals in total, leads this ranking. Also, the number 2, Indigo (s.Renovo) with only 29 foals in total with three of them performing in sports above average, stands out. Whiskey HBC and his sire Reflex M (s.Larix) are found in spots 3 and – shared – 5. Reflex M shares this place among others with the last year deceased Colonist (s.Vulcano), who registered over 100 offspring. Also related to the total number of offspring, Manno is doing well: 5,7% of his offspring are capable to earn at least 50 winning points. Moreover, Vulcano (s.Manno) and Roy M (s.Larix) only just fell out of this top 10 with 4,8% and 4,7% respectively.

| | | | |
|----------|---------------|---------|---------------------------|
| 1. 11,3% | MILANO | 5. 5,8% | COLONIST; REFLEX M; RANNO |
| 2. 10,3% | INDIGO | 6. 5,7% | MANNO |
| 3. 10,0% | WHISKEY HBC | 7. 5,6% | KENTUCKYBOY |
| 4. 7,7% | IMPRESSIONIST | 8. 4,9% | TALOS |

EXCEPTIONAL CLASS

Horses that are able to achieve a sport result of 100 winning points or more, can be considered of an exceptional class. That is why it is interesting to see if the top 10 changes a lot, when we consider only those horses and their sires for this analysis. Looking at just numbers, the top 4 is almost equal to those with horses with 50 winning points or more. Only Jonker (s.Renovo) and Larix have switched spots. Roy M (s.Larix) climbed up the tree one place and Atleet (s.Patijn) is new in this list with his sixth place. He is the youngest stallion in this top 10. Moreover, he shares this sixth place with all the other stallions in this top 10. Logically, we see in this ranking relatively old stallions, because the offspring of younger stallions are not always old enough to have achieved this number of winning points yet.

| | | | |
|-------|--------|-------|--|
| 1. 46 | MANNO | 4. 10 | LARIX |
| 2. 12 | PATIJN | 5. 7 | ROY M |
| 3. 11 | JONKER | 6. 6 | ATLEET; LORTON; MILANO; PLAIN'S LIBERATOR; REFLEX M |

EQUAL TOP FOUR

When we calculate the percentage of offspring with 100 winning points or more for the sires, we see an equal top 4 as when we look at offspring with 50 winning points or more. Milano is again in the lead, followed by Indigo and Whiskey HBC. It counts here also, that in some cases a relatively small number of offspring of which one or some do well, make a high place in this ranking possible. Again, Roy M just fell out of the top 10 with 2,6% (7 offspring with 100+ winning points, on a total of 274 registered offspring).

| | | | |
|---------|---------------|----------|----------|
| 1. 9,7% | MILANO | 6. 3,5% | REFLEX M |
| 2. 6,9% | INDIGO | 7. 3,3% | JOCHEM |
| 3. 5,0% | WHISKEY HBC | 8. 3,1% | JONKER |
| 4. 3,8% | IMPRESSIONIST | 9. 2,9% | VULCANO |
| 5. 3,7% | INTERESSANT | 10. 2,8% | MANNO |

SEPARATE RANKING YOUNG STALLIONS

Most of the sons and daughters of relatively young stallions is not old enough to pop up in the rankings mentioned above. For that reason, we made a separate ranking for sires that were born in 2004 or later and consequently were approved in 2007 or later. We look at the numbers and percentages of their offspring that have collected 50 or more winning points up to date. A lot of the progeny of these stallions are upcoming, but this gives an indication.

When we look again at the number of offspring with 50+ winning points, it is not surprising to find Cizandro at the top with 12 offspring. Also, Atleet and Colonist, who we saw earlier in the rankings we discussed, are in the top 5. Delviro HBC (s.Vulcano) and Eebert (s.Atleet) complete this overview with 2 offspring each.

| | | | |
|-------|----------|------|---------------------|
| 1. 12 | CIZANDRO | 3. 6 | COLONIST |
| 2. 8 | ATLEET | 4. 2 | DELVIRO HBC; EEBERT |

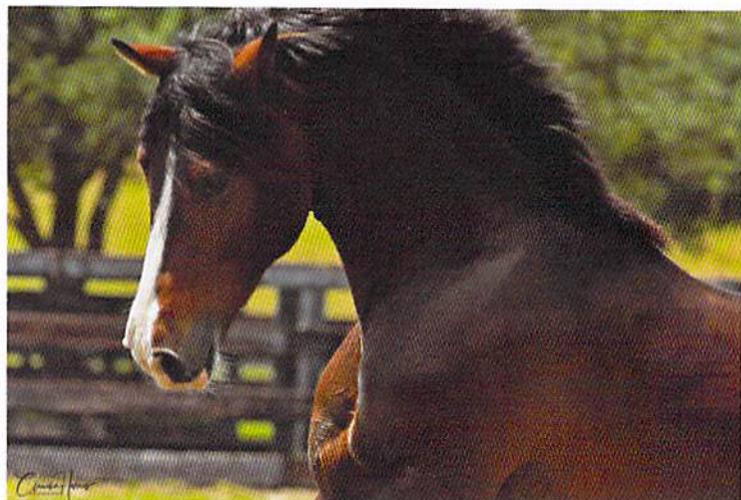
Related to the number of offspring, the top 5 differs a bit. Colonist is able to take the lead with 6 offspring out of a little over a 100 in total that have a result in sports for 50+ points. Again, some of these stallions have a relatively low number of offspring with one or a couple of well-performing offspring. Cizandro and Atleet keep doing well percentage wise, and Bakboord HBC (s.Larix) on 5th spot did not come up in earlier lists.

For this generation of stallions, a lot of their offspring are upcoming. That is why the top 5 may be very different in a couple of years.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. 5,8% COLONIST | 4. 1,9% ATLEET |
| 2. 3,3% ZEPPLIN | 5. 1,5% BAKBOORD HBC |
| 3. 2,2% CIZANDRO | |

Special Guest Article

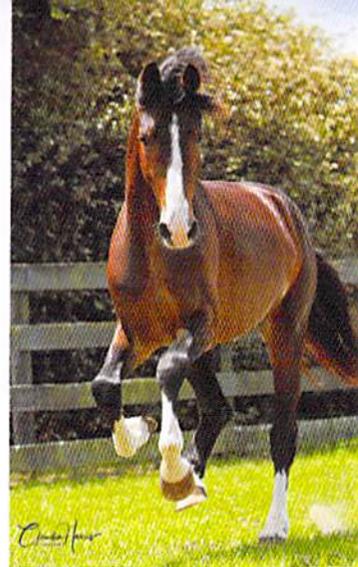
By Brynne Varvel



Before I can make remarks on the Harness horse for dressage, I would like to introduce myself and my involvement with these horses. My name is Brynne Varvel, I am a USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist and have shown through Intermediate 1. I began working with the Dutch Harness horse because I was in search of a FEI dressage prospect that would not break the bank. Luckily for me I live in Indiana which is home to one of the largest Amish populations. The Amish began importing some of the nicest KWPN Dutch Harness horses in the early to mid 2000s, and the rest is history from there! Most of the stock that is in my barn comes from either imported parents, STER mares, or have bloodlines that are based closely with some of the nicest Dutch Harness Horses in Europe. I am head trainer at Varvel Sporthorses, a private family owned facility in Bloomington, IN, and I work directly with JND Stables where I train, show, and sell most of their youngstock.

Now that I have given a bit of background on myself, I will begin discussing my thoughts and experiences working with the KWPN Dutch Harness Horse in the discipline of dressage. My initial riding background comes from the Morgan horse, a smaller, versatile breed that originated in the United States. They are known for their charisma, attitude, and at times heat. When I began my search into the harness horses, I was told by many dressage trainers and riders that they were simply too hot for the discipline. I have now started 15-20 harness horses (just in the past 4 years) and have seen thousands including most of the imported and licensed stallions which stand here in the United States. The number one thing I will state about the breed as a whole is their outstanding personalities and keen attitude to work. The number one thing I can state as a myth about the breed is that they are too hot for dressage, instead I have found them to be happy, hardworking partners for professionals and amateurs alike. Certainly, some of the bloodlines develop mentally and physically a bit earlier, but as a whole I have found them to have a work ethic like no other. Their intelligence stands out, they are the kind of horses where you teach something one day and they have it the next. If anything, I would fault them for trying too hard at times.

Conformationally these horses have been bred for a different purpose than dressage. The most typical difference I see is that their croups tend to be flatter and their neck set is higher. I have had many people inquire about the difficulty that the naturally higher neck set may have to teach the horses to lengthen their frame, and as with most things in dressage I see this as a training focused issue. If you use the training scale of dressage, starting with rhythm and relaxation the neck set will naturally fall. This is of large importance for the breed as they need that to help produce strength over their topline and create more correct "sit."



This leads directly into the difference of movement between the harness horse and the riding type. I have heard time and time again that the harness horses were simply bred to trot and therefore do not have the quality of canter to reach the high levels of dressage. This is a simply incorrect statement, in the many harness horses I have worked with I have never been more impressed with a single gait than these horse's canters. Where I would fault them is that they are often very large and unbalanced in the early stages of training, making these horses not always the best candidates for the Young Horse classes.



With patience and correct training the canter that I have found in many of the horses I have trained is balanced with an impressively natural ability to sit. The trot these horses offer varies depending on the horse as an individual and on their bloodlines. I have seen two places where I would improve some, not all, harness horse trots which is that they can be a bit closed in the front and a bit out behind. I have

found this to be more of the exception than the rule, and as with any other horse the trot is the most developable gait. Lastly the walk, which typically displays a clear rhythm but will at times lack in large overtrack or swing when compared to their riding type counterparts.

So, is this a breed that can make the top of the sport? Well, of course! The now-retired Verdades, who holds an Olympic Bronze Medal, Pan Am Individual Silver Medal and Team Gold Medal, World Games Individual and Team Silver Medals, and was reserve champion at the World Cup final for three years to none other than Isabell Werth, is enough to state this breeds ability for the top of the sport. He's not the only one with a top-level Grand Prix record too, horses such as Tarpan Ymas, Victorious, and Cartier have shown that the breed has impressive talent for high level dressage.



Visit ClaudiaHarrisPhotography.com for professional horse photography samples and to contact directly.

KWPN North America
4037 Iron Works Parkway
Suite 140
Lexington, KY 40511



KWPN
NORTH AMERICA

KWPN-NA OFFICE
4037 Iron Works Pkwy
Suite #140
Lexington, KY 40511

PHONE: 859-225-5331
FAX: 859-554-0366
Eastern Time

EMAIL: office@kwpn-na.org
WEBSITE: www.kwpn-na.org

HARNES HORSE *Committee Members*

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Douwe Plantinga | 903-588-6693 |
| Wim Cazemier | 260-446-4291 |
| David Beachy | 574-825-3943 |
| Aaron Jay Fisher | 717-475-5917 |
| Jesse Zehr | 260-466-2494 |

If you are interested in advertising in our newsletter, please contact Aaron Jay Fisher at 717-475-5917 (KWPN-NA Office).