



KWPN
NORTH AMERICA

HARNESS HORSE NEWS

Hello! As the holiday season is in full swing, we hope you'll take time to enjoy this issue featuring content from a popular article on our website that includes reporting. Also in the issue is a great write-up of Dutch Harness "power couple" Robbie and Chantel van Dijk. After you enjoy the content, pass this newsletter along to friends or family who may be interested. Thank you for your continued support! See you in 2022.

With thanks,
KWPN-NA Harness Committee

Dutch Harness Royalty: Robbie and Chantel van Dijk

BY ERIN SHEA & WILLIAM DUFFY



When it comes to maintaining a position in the top of their sport for decades, few in the professional equine world can compare to Robbie and Chantal van Dijk of Odiliapeel, The Netherlands. They have countless keuring champions and national titles, including Oregon and Manno trophies to their names.

Robbie and Chantal have both been passionate horse people their entire lives. Robbie grew up on the very same farm that he and Chantal train at today. His father was a dedicated horseman, who did some showing, but had more of a focus on buying, training, and selling young driving horses. Chantal, whose father was a dressage trainer, started riding at a very young age, doing a variety of disciplines. She started on ponies and worked up to dressage, jumping and vaulting.

Robbie's brother Cor was the first to get more seriously involved with the showing, but Robbie was not far behind. 1989 proved to be a life changing year for Robbie and Chantal. This was the year they met, and Robbie also began showing a horse named Gangmaker (Wouter x Cambridge Cole). From this point it was clear to them that they wanted to be more than just hobbyist drivers and set their sights on making it a career.

While many people aspire to having sponsors, Robbie and Chantal were determined to make it all on their own. They may not have the fanciest equipment starting out, but due to their determination, dedication, and talent, they now have a state-of-the-art training facility that they created themselves.

One of their biggest goals was to have an approved stallion in training. This may seem silly looking back now, as they have had close to 30 approved stallions in their barn and counting. Even after all the stallions they have trained and accolades they have earned, what still stands out in their minds as one of their proudest accomplishments was meeting this initial goal

Dutch Harness Royalty: Robbie and Chantal van Dijk

Continued from front cover

they had set out for. A stallion named Kentucky Boy (Hollands Golden Boy x Proloog) was the first approved stallion entrusted to Robbie and Chantal to train and compete. While this was a huge accomplishment, it led to what turned out to be a truly amazing list of stallions to enter their training program.

The stallions they have had the opportunity to train since Kentucky Boy are really a who's who of Dutch Harness Stallions. Lorton, Waldemar, Cizandro, Eebert, Fantijn and Macho, to name a few. While being trusted with stallions of that caliber is an accomplishment in and of itself, it takes an extra special eye to choose a young prospect that you successfully get approved. Viking, Makari Jetsetter, Graaf Kelly and Hiro T were all hand selected by Robbie and Chantal as young horses and were successfully approved.

While Robbie is known for competing stallions, he and Chantal have had their share of success with mares as well. Nancie, a full sister to Gangmaker, was a successful Keur Sport mare and a dominant mare in the show ring. She was followed by great mares like Biantha V (the dam of Hermanus and full sister to Famous V), Disaronno, Gelane and Ilanda, just to name a few.

With a roster of horses like this, it would seem impossible to choose a favorite. When asked about favorites, they did offer the names of the approved stallions Lorton, Cizandro and Moneymaker, as well

as the phenomenal show horse Show Me the Money. When looking at these names, you can't help but notice that while they are all great show horses, Robbie and Chantal have a clear appreciation for the horses that have helped them reach their goals and achieve the successes they have enjoyed in their career so far.

While their success with Dutch Harness Horses may overshadow their talent in other equine fields, they do pride themselves in being well rounded horsemen. They have also had exceptional success in showing and training Friesians, dressage horses, hackney horses, and hackney ponies. They own a band of very high quality KWPN dressage mares that they breed and compete. In fact, this year they, for the first time, bred one of their dressage mares to a harness stallion. Despite all their accomplishments, they keep working toward new goals, one of which is to breed an internationally successful dressage stallion. Perhaps, as Dutch Harness enthusiasts, we can hope that that stallion will be their Harness horse cross.

When asked about the current state of the Harness Horse industry in the Netherlands, they said it is a little hard to judge right now with the coronavirus having such an impact on the horse industry worldwide. For the younger generation to get involved is harder than it used to be, as it has become increasingly more expensive. Robbie and Chantal don't have any children of their own, but it is still very important to them to educate aspiring driving enthusiasts. They do whatever they can to assist the next generation of drivers, by passing along their lifetime of knowledge and experience and emphasizing the importance of putting the horses' wellbeing first, which is a trademark of their training philosophy.

They have noticed that while there are fewer competitions than in the past, the quality of horses competing is increasing drastically, so much so that horses finishing in the bottom of the pack now would have been national champions twenty years ago. Chantal and Robbie do call into question if this trajectory of increasing quality is sustainable, but only time will tell.

Robbie van Dijk has spent more time behind a horse than many of us could imagine, whether it is on the peaceful trails behind his house, or in the intense spotlight at Den Bosch. It would be easy to assume that no driving event would get Robbie and Chantal's nerves worked up, however quite the opposite is true. To this day, they still appreciate every step in the ring with the same excitement and enthusiasm that set them on this journey in 1989 behind Gangmaker. They say that when the butterflies subside, they will call an end to their career. If you ask me, passion like you see in Robbie and Chantal lasts a lifetime and I hope and expect we will see them in the showing for years to come. •





RESULTS FROM KWPN-NA 2021 FUTURITY FOAL PROGRAM (JUDGED BY VIDEO)

Harness and Gelding

HARNESS FOAL

RANKING	YOUTUBE PLAYLIST #	NAME	DOB	BREEDER	PEDIGREE
1	11	Rosie Jay C	4/8/2021	Wim Cazemier	Nel-Mar Hummer x Jay Rose keur IBOP (tp) by Plain's Liberator
2	3	Ruby	4/12/2021	Raymond Stoltzfus Owner Kay Marschel	Waldemar x Fieke keur by Baanbreker HBC
3	7	Roll with This	5/11/2021	John Fisher	Hermanus x Emy-Duca ster by Reflex M
4	14	Rhapsidee GFF	5/16/2021	Bill Duffy III	Waldemar x Tidee keur by Jonker
5	4	Robust	5/7/2021	Ammon Stoltzfus	Globetrotter sport (tp) x Wonder Lady ster by Roy M

HARNESS YEARLING

RANKING	YOUTUBE PLAYLIST #	NAME	DOB	BREEDER	PEDIGREE
1	2	Phaeton ES	4/19/2020	Sophie Moore and Sebastian Boutin	Barno aang x Karysa by Colonist
2	3	Ptolemy BRB	2/24/2020	Bailey West	Julius x Broadway's Hot Crystal by Broadway's Hot Shot

GELDERS FOAL

RANKING	YOUTUBE PLAYLIST #	NAME	DOB	BREEDER	PEDIGREE
1	4	Renaissance O	6/15/2021	Megan Owen	Epic Eastwood x Greas.R ster keur elig PROK by Koss pref
2	2	Revel BRB	3/29/2021	Bailey West	Alexandro P x Irona BRB by Wouter 2e-bez
3	3	Reijnen BRB	1/23/2021	Sophie Moore and Sebastian Boutin	Heijnen G.W. x Lady Luck by Aureool aang PROK

GELDERS YEARLING

RANKING	YOUTUBE PLAYLIST #	NAME	DOB	BREEDER	PEDIGREE
1	3	Paschal BRB	4/11/2020	Bailey West	Alexandro P x Irona BRB by Wouter 2e-bez
2	2	Primrose BRB	2/26/2020	Bailey West	Special D x La Vie Une Rose by Edmundo

Three harness horse stallions added to KWPN stallion stack

Translated from website:
<https://www.kwpn.nl/nieuws?itemId=NewsItem:24245>

On October 30, three harness horse stallions in Ermelo took their exam after a three-week performance test. All three stallions succeeded and were entered in the studbook. Neon GSM became the performance champion during this autumn survey. He is from the first year of the KWPN-recognized Hackney stallion Bocellies Matteo.

This was the second time in a row that a autumn survey for harness horse stallions was organized. This lasted about three weeks. The stallion inspection committee consisted of chairman Lammert Tel, Bauke de Boer and Thomas van der Weiden and they were assisted by inspector Viggon van Beest. Lammert Tel explained: "It is an average vintage in which the stallions have not performed above average. However, there are two stallions that have a very low and lower relationship entered in the studbook. The third stallion, Norking Apple, comes from a very strong dam line from which no approved stallion has yet emerged."

THREE STALLIONS

Bocellies Matteo son Neon GSM received an 8.5 for the workability and almost only eight on the other parts. He is very low related and thus an asset in the context of blood distribution. Norking Apple (by

Icelandie) was not inferior to Neon GSM. He also received an 8.5 for the workability and attitude. For the front, enthusiasm and overall image as a harness horse, he also got an 8. Norbert FS (v.Urgent) is also a lower related stallion who received an 8 for the moment of suspension, the use of the hind leg and the workability / attitude.

Audience was welcome at the final presentation and it was broadcast live via KWPN.tv. The video footage is now posted on KWPN.tv.

The approved stallions are:

Neon GSM

(Bocellies Matteo x A New Day, breeder J.T. Seinen from Punthorst)

Norking Apple

(Icellie x Eebert, breeder N. Van Maaswaal from 't Goy)

Norbert FS

(Urgent x Waldemar, breeder J. Bloemert from Staphorst)

The following are the reports for each approved stallion.



NEON GSM / 528003201801440

FRONT	POSTURE	SUSPENSION	ACTION OF THE FORELEG	USE OF THE HIND LEG	ENTHUSIASM	WORKABILITY/ ATTITUDE	OVERALL PICTURE AS A HARNESS HORSE
8	8	8	8	7	8	8.5	8



NORCKING APPLE / 528003201805584

FRONT	POSTURE	SUSPENSION	ACTION OF THE FORELEG	USE OF THE HIND LEG	ENTHUSIASM	WORKABILITY/ ATTITUDE	OVERALL PICTURE AS A HARNESS HORSE
8	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	8	8.5	8



NORBERT FS / 528003201804108

FRONT	POSTURE	SUSPENSION	ACTION OF THE FORELEG	USE OF THE HIND LEG	ENTHUSIASM	WORKABILITY/ ATTITUDE	OVERALL PICTURE AS A HARNESS HORSE
7.5	7	8	7.5	8	7.5	8	7.5

GLOBETROTTER

KWPN-APPROVED SPORT STALLION



A Sample of his Offspring



National Champion in Combined Driving



Sale highlight — Sold for \$14,500 as buggy horse



ADHHA National Champion



KWPN Keur Mare and Multi-Champion in Harness



Buggy Horse



KWPN Keur Mare and Sale Highlight

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APPROVED & LICENSED STALLIONS FOR 2022



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GLOBETROTTER



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