

> KWPN-NA at the Stallion Show

American breeders at the KWPN Stallion Show

People from all corners of the world were present at the KWPN Stallion Show to see all our beautiful horses. During the show, Gemma Jansen talked to a group of KWPN-NA breeders who had crossed the pond to enjoy the Dutch sport horse.

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One of the people who came over from America was Wim Cazemier. This Dutchman of origin is a harness horse man in heart and soul. He left his hometown Nuis with his wife Marjan and son



Koen in the fall of 2016 to move to Spencerville, a small village in the state of Indiana. “I had been selling horses to America for twenty years, but living there is indeed quite a change,” he agrees. “We

left behind family, friends and all our certainties in the Netherlands. We did not choose the easiest way. Especially in it the beginning of our time in the USA, we regularly ran into things that we really had to get used to. Still, we don't think about going back for the time being. We are really enjoying ourselves now and the company is going well.”

Enormous distances

“An important difference with The Netherlands is the size of the country and the driving distances associated with that. The state of Indiana for example, is more than twice as large as the Netherlands. Wherever in the Netherlands you load your horses on the truck in the morning, go to a competition or to the inspection, you

will be back home in the evening. That is really not the case in America, which makes it difficult for both horse owners and judges.

Sending semen from the stallions also has its limitations because of that: 95 percent of all orders are sent at night by UPS or Fedex. This is only possible from Monday to Friday, which means that there is no delivery on Sunday and Monday.

Growing up with horses in the Netherlands also means that you encounter inspections and aptitude tests at an early age and that you gain knowledge of good mare lines. This is not obvious when you grow up in America. It is originally a free country, also in terms of crossbreeding with different breeds and show breeds such as Saddlebreds, Morgans and Arabians. They also do not have an inspection history. The horse that wins in the ring is labeled the best and is therefore used for breeding.”

Huge drive to gain knowledge

“There is a huge drive to gain knowledge in America, but we don't have regional meetings, where we can easily catch up with other breeders. The KWPN-NA was founded exactly 40 years ago. We will have an Annual Meeting at the beginning of March Oregon where we will reflect on this. The KWPN- NA has her head office at the Kentucky Horse Park, from where we will be planning our annual inspection tour for all breeding directions including Canada. Including two inspection locations for the Harness horses; one in Northern Indiana and one in Pennsylvania.”

“Our members are horse owners who are particularly interested, involved and eager to learn. They want their

horses to be judged by Dutch standards and value. For years we have been able to count on good people in the field, such as Bart Henstra, Arie Hamoen, Viggon van Beest. People who understand their profession and, not unimportantly, can handle the tight tour schedule: fourteen inspection locations in as many days is quite something. Because of COVID we have not had any inspections for three years, America was locked for almost two years. The future looks bright now for North America: we have a growing number of members and Keuring participants and the number of Keurings is increasing as well. This also comes with some challenges. The bar is always high at the KWPN, just like at KWPN-NA. You have to be critical, because that's how you keep the lead." "It was nice to be back in the Netherlands after three years. To speak to family and acquaintances and to experience the stallion selection live again. I would be happy to spare a day of flying to go to Den Bosch. There is no horse event like the KWPN Stallion Show anywhere in the world. What a small country can be great at."

William Duffy: "Passing on the Dutch traditions of the Harness horse"

William Duffy and Erin Shea from Ashby (Massachusetts) followed the stallions' performance from the stands with great interest. William says that in

America he mainly knew quarter horses, but fifteen years ago he fell in love with the harness horse. The reason? A photo of the KWPN stallion Opgenoort depicted on a calendar. "In America there are now quite a lot of harness horses. However, these are rarely entered in competitions, but mainly run in front of the carriage or they are used as dressage horses. For example, Erin, who has ridden Grand Prix dressage in the past, now competes with the harness horse Larado. The interest in the harness horse is currently clearly growing. Not so long ago we set up the Dutch Harness Show Association with a few enthusiasts here, mainly to pass on the Dutch tradition of the harness horse."

"Erin and I don't make our money from horses at home, but they are our biggest hobby. We run a modest stable, the Grand Finale Farm. In 2020 I bought the stallion Macho. I always said: 'If I buy a stallion, it must be a very special one'. Macho came, saw and conquered: he showed himself in a great, but also natural way. With a beautiful posture: uphill, with a lot of charisma and power. The louder the people clapped, the more he showed himself. He then passed the performance test with the highest marks ever. Because of COVID, I couldn't see Macho for two years. That was very tough, but fortunately I received a lot of videos from Robbie and Chantal van Dijk, where he was and is in training. After I bought Macho, I first wanted to take him home, but he

The KWPN stallion Atleet (s. Patijn) (had an important job during William and Erin's wedding day.

Picture by Jessica Morin



gets a lot more opportunities here in the Netherlands. He covers many mares and mares of very good quality. There are many more shows to ride here than in America. So yes, it would be nice if I could drive him myself in America, but to see him go here in the Oregon Trophy is also fantastic.”

“The KWPN stallion Atleet is at my stable at home. He is now eighteen years old, and I work with him almost every day. Chantal van Dijk will soon come over for a few weeks to give clinics. The passion for harness horses, which you can see in both Robbie and Chantal, is fantastic and is making more and more people enthusiastic. In breeding, he seems to be a great combination with the daughters of Atleet. I can hardly wait to try that. When I am an old man, I hope to organize a big show with harness horses with some people in America. Something like the KWPN Stallion Show. A real challenge, but everyone should have dreams.”

Great show

Scot and Carol Tolman from Spofford (New Hampshire) see the KWPN Stallion Show as the highlight of the year. “It is always a wonderful show, but the first viewing gives me more information. So I'm almost always there

and then I go home for a few weeks. Home is Shooting Star Farm. We have built up a nice mare base now. Mainly from Gerard Vervoorn's mare line, with the 'keur preferent performance' mare Orchis as foundation dam. She was a daughter of Jazz out of the famous Roemer daughter Charites. We have produced several good daughters from Orchis, including Galearites SSF, a KWPN-NA-keur mare by Totilas. We have eight to twelve foals born every year.”

Stallions

Besides mares, Scot also has several stallions, such as Gaudi SSF (by Totilas) and Premier SSF (by All at Once). Scot believes he can breed a fine dressage horse with the harness horse stallion Jaleet (by Atleet). In addition, the Gelders stallion Floris BS (by Negro) is also in his stables. “I have always been a fan of Gelders



Scot en Carol Tolman



Jess Klein Photography

Wim Cazemier trains and trades horses but also manages several stallions at his station of which KWPN-NA stallion Jaleet (s. Atleet)

Picture by J Klein Photography

blood. He is so easy going and has a fantastic character. He is therefore intended as a riding horse for me and not especially for breeding, although we expect some foals from him. In the Netherlands, several my stallions are still being reared, which we will hopefully see next year at the stallion inspection. That is something I would really like to experience, to get a stallion approved. The colts include sons of Bloomberg, Fynch Hatton and Jupiler S and two other jumping stallions by Ilse Bosch. There is also a beautiful colored stallion for the NRPS stallion inspection. Yes, you are American or not.”

“I own quite a lot of horses now, but I never actually count them. Carol sometimes tells me that we should sell a few.” But when I ask which one, she has no answer, because if we go through them one by one, they all have their positives. Carol enjoys them as much as I do and is busy with them in her own way. The horses I saw this year in Den Bosch made me very happy again. My favorite young stallion was Party Edition A (by Livius), a modern horse that used his body in the right way and Glamourdale made a big impression, what a great horse.”

Becoming a better rider

“After the stallion selection, we are going to make a trip through Asia, doing something that doesn’t involve horses for a change. But I’m looking forward to going

home and riding Floris again. I would like to learn how to ride better and I am helped by a good friend. Horseback riding is a kind of therapy for me; I am very happy on a horse. You get a connection that you don’t have any other way. It is not my intention to compete, those competitions are always much too far away in our country, just like the inspections. In that respect, our country is actually too big. I would like to keep breeding beautiful and good horses with fine characters. All my dreams have actually already come true. My daughter is very involved, so should I ever be gone, my family will carry on with my life’s work.”

Dan Ruediger: “It’s all about the dam lines”

Dan and Gina Ruediger from Sherwood (Oregon) enjoy their fifteenth time at the KWPN Stallion Show. At home they run the Sonnenberg Farm, a first-class dressage breeding and training facility. Gina trains there with, among others, the keur mare Sonnenberg’s Finomana (by Rubiquil), with which she rides Intermediate I. “We have a number of broodmares, at home and also in the Netherlands. After all, the semen of the good stallions is more readily available there. We board a number of mares with Sjak Laarakkers and Vai Bruntink. They manage the care and training of our horses there.”

The popular Totilas-son Gaudi SSF, out of De Niro daughter Annabel, is managed by Wim Cazemier and owned by Scot and Carol Tolman.

Picture by J Klein Photography



Dan en Gina Ruediger



“Before we fly home, we go to look at our horses. Netina (by Glamourdale, ed.), among others, is there. She was champion of Groningen and was then allowed to participate in the NMK. Netina is currently being trained for the sport and will receive a foal from So Perfect through a surrogate mother. Another horse which we expect a lot from is the now three-year-old Party Time S, from the first crop of Le Formidable. The

intention is that she will go to the inspection this year and we will probably come and see her again.”

“One of the first things we learned in the Netherlands in the beginning is that everything revolves around good

mares and dam lines. We also never use just any stallion but look for the stallion per broodmare that can improve her possible weak points. We therefore usually opt for the older and confirmed stallions, because you can often already see in their offspring what they add to breeding and what they can do for your population. Dressage riding is becoming increasingly popular in our region. We really breed for sport. In 2020 we had the USDF Small Tour champion USDF in Sonnenberg's Everdance (by Johnson, ed.).”

“Our trips to the Netherlands have meanwhile created a large network of friends and people who help us find special mares. When we talk about good stallions in Den Bosch, this time we were most charmed by Taminiau son Pablo Picasso among the young stallions. None of the older stallions came close to Glamourdale. Of course, he is trained very well, but he has a lot of natural talent and a lot of power.”

Juliette d’Rosa S. (s.Ampere) scored a 9.5 for her trot and 86 points for her IBOP. Dan and Gina’s daughter of Ampere will soon be started in the Small Tour.

Picture by Mary Cornelius



Willy Arts: "A horse needs to sell itself"

Willy Arts from Hanford (California) grew up in the Dutch town Alverna between horses and ponies. "We were neighbors of the Loeffen family (well-known Dutch horse family, red.) and I started pony riding there. When I got older, I worked for four years at riding school St. Frans and later for the same period at Stoeterij 't Vierspan."

"I live in America since 1984. I landed there through the horse business. My friend Tony de Groot bought the first horses from Driekus Vonk in Ochten. Someone I knew, Faan Pompen, worked there at the time. He traveled with the first shipment of horses to Los Angeles and then stayed there for four months to care for and ride the



horses. On June 11th, Faan called if it was something for me to do this for a few months. It seemed like a nice challenge to me, on the other side of the world and on June 21 I arrived in Hanford. And I never left. The area I eventually ended up in is Central California. It is mainly an

agricultural region with lots of cows and farming, with little or no English-style riding."

Rideability is important

"I now have a stable with ten good dressage mares at my disposal, I exploit several stallions, I give a lot of instruction and I sell suitable horses to enthusiasts. For my clients I am always looking for well-built, complete and functional horses that are healthy. The rideability of a horse is one of the most important properties for me; they certainly shouldn't be lazy, but they don't have to be overly roomy runners either. It is very important to me that a horse sells itself and the match with the rider is extremely important. Exaggerated gaits are unfortunately too often overvalued in my opinion."

For Willy, the stallion Koning (by Bordeaux) is an exemplary horse in terms of rideability. His stallion herd also includes the KWPN-NA recognized L Primo DG (by Bordeaux) and the KWPN-NA recognized New Adventure (by Don Schufro). In the past, Willy imported the designated Gelders stallion Sandor Jane. This Inspekteur son was approved in America and competed in the Grand Prix."

Breeders need advice

"Breeding good sport horses has always been one of my goals. In the past, all mares were covered here, without selecting or paying attention to quality. American breeders have learned a lot in recent decades. It remains difficult that the costs for everything related to horses are so much higher than in the Netherlands. On the other hand, there is plenty of space. Breeders benefit from good advice, which is what I try to give them anyway, but I notice that the KWPN is also committed to this. They do very well with regard to the inspections and associated education. If possible, I visit the stallion inspection, so you stay well informed of the progress in breeding. If you only stay in your own little world, you miss a lot. I was particularly impressed by the offspring of Le Formidable and Glamourdale, they really stood out. The latter stallion is of course also the perfect example of training and aptitude in riding. Breeding in general has clearly improved; I have seen many modern and good moving horses. We do have to keep in mind that three-year-old stallions are not yet allowed to look like adult horses and that we do not ask them for things that they are not yet able to handle. You never stop learning about the horse business, but that is precisely what keeps me fascinated and humbled."

Carly Fisher: "Such joy watching these horses"

"I'm in the Netherlands for a week now. This is my third time at the KWPN Stallion Show", says Carly Fisher from Franklin (Massachusetts). "I love to see beautiful horses and of course the offspring they produce. This way you get a complete picture of breeding. The horse culture here is very different from home. In America there is less knowledge about sport horses and here everyone seems to know everything about it. Of course, that mainly has to do with the distance; here you can speak to many horse breeders within a radius of ten kilometers and view their horses. In America you often have to drive hours for that. I breed on a modest scale with a few dressage and jumping mares, all KWPN horses and one Oldenburger. In my daily life I run Clarion Farm, a training stable with nineteen horses, and I mainly give a lot of instruction. In the region where I come from there are many horses of all different shapes and sizes, but little breeding is done."

"Before the stallion inspection started, I went to Van Olst Horses, a wonderful company, and after Den Bosch we have a visit to VDL Stud on the program. I know the people from VDL well by now: I use a lot of VDL stallions. Janko van de Lageweg has been the handler of the horses during the Keuring tour in America. He also does a lot for the breeders."

“What I'm not allowed to do at the KWPN Stallion Show, is buy a horse, because that doesn't make my husband happy. He thinks we have enough. When I go back to America, three horses that I saw in Den Bosch will remain on my mind for a while. These are the premium stallion Unedo van de Vondel (by Conthargos, ed.), Paddington Geuzenhof (by Lantanas, ed.) and of course the great Glamourdale. Really enjoy watching such hores.”

Kathy Hickerson: “Fantastic event”

Kathy Hickerson from Brookline (New Hampshire) has been visiting the KWPN Stallion Show almost every year since 2000. “The KWPN always organized a wonderful tour for their foreign guests, very educational and fun. I always drove. When my husband proposed to me, I said: ‘yes, but with the horses, otherwise forget it.’” I started

my horse career with a thoroughbred mare, with her I jumped and rode dressage. There weren't many warmblood mares in America back then. In the beginning of my marriage, we moved several times. We once lived near Iron Spring Farm and there I got acquainted with a completely different kind of horses that had much more quality for the sport.”

“When we settled in one place, I started my own stable, Majestic Gaits. In that period, I bred several foals a year, but now I'm getting a bit older and I'm taking it a bit slower. At home I now have six mares and a few Stallions in training at other locations. Including Schröder (by Sandro Hit, ed.) and Dante MG (by Chin Chin, ed.), they are approved for different registries. My young stallion Karrington MG is a son of Farrington, and he is approved for Oldenburg, maybe I will also offer him to the KWPN-NA for licensing at some point. A few years after Farrington was approved, he was rented to me. The KWPN stallion Navarone also stood with me. He was 28 years old and recently passed away. A great stallion with an ideal character. For me really a once-in-a-lifetime stallion. Luckily, I have a daughter of his. In addition, I manage the breeding of the KWPN stallion Five Star, imported from the Netherlands (v. Amazing Star, ed.).”



“A big difference between America and The Netherlands is that we do not yet have a conclusive inspection system, the KWPN-NA and KWPN are still working on that. Especially the testing of young stallions for full approval is a problem. The KWPN Stallion Show is a fantastic event; I love it. You can see all kinds of things here, older stallions, but also their descendants. What I see here, I store in my memory and then I can go home again and advise breeders. In this year's stallion selection, I thought Stargos VDL was the best jumper, so simple and fluid in how he went over the jumps, and in the dressage, I thought Glamourdale stood out most. What an incredible horse!”

Liesbeth van Woerden: “Promoting the KWPN horse”

No next level without good people behind the scenes. In the case of the KWPN-NA that is especially Liesbeth (Liz) van Woerden. When she moved with her family to the USA in 2018 for four years, she approached the KWPN-NA about voluntary work. Chairman of the board Willy Arts and director Kelley Stachon gave her the chance to implement her ideas. She researched the history of the Dutch bloodlines and promoted the KWPN horse with stories about the breeders. She also did a lot of translations of news articles and have a presentation about the history of the Dutch Warmblood at the 2020 Annual General Meeting and helped with fundraisers.

Liz moved back to the Netherlands again in 2022 and is now officially hired by the KWPN-NA. “My job is mainly managing the social media channels of the KWPN-NA, making connections with breeders, translating articles and reports from the Netherlands and promoting activities in the Netherlands and North America. I think this job will keep me travelling to America about twice a year. The last time I was there at the same time as two KWPN judges, during the selection in California at Willy Arts. Very fun and educational to experience up close. In addition, I recorded the entire judging on video, a fantastic way to promote KWPN-NA horses and very educational for the members.”

Quality horses

Liz was present at the KWPN Stallion Show for the first time in her life. “I used to always watch it online, but this is much better. A wonderful event to finally experience live. There were also a lot of Americans, so we could easily discuss the horses and I translated jury comments for them. In America, the KWPN receives a lot of respect for their quality control over breeding. That is also the reason why the KWPN-NA was founded 40 years ago by

Jeff Moore: he wanted quality horses with real KWPN papers to be bred in North America.”

For Liesbeth it is important that the KWPN-NA breeders are taken seriously in their breeding aspirations. “Most members are extremely driven to breed top quality KWPN horses. They must invest a lot for that, because breeding and sport are an expensive affair in America. The enormous distances play the most important role in this. I would also like to create more insight in and connection between Dutch and American breeders and their programs. So that people know better what is going on and people can learn from each other. In my vision, we all have the same goal: to breed a good KWPN sport horse.”

Keep Gelders blood and type

“Although I am interested in all types of warmblood horses, Gelders or ‘Gelderlander’ horses have always been my favorite. I think it is important that the Gelders blood and type is preserved. That is why I am closely involved in the promotion of Gelders horses, of which the American Grand Prix stallion Finale, who was recently recognized by the KWPN for the direction Gelders horse. I own a two-year-old Gelders mare myself

too, from the breeding program of the well-known Romviel family in the Netherlands. In America I also have five Gelders horses with lines of exported stallions such as Vosmaer, FairPlay and Zoöloog. I hope to be able to bring a few young horses with these lines to the

Netherlands eventually so they can bring that blood back into the Dutch Gelders breeding direction.”



Willy Arts bred the stallion Koning DG (s. Bordeaux). He scored 89.5 at the North American Stallion sport test, the highest score ever. He is licensed with the KWPN-NA and has sired many Keuring champions already and will soon be started at Small Tour.