



THE AMERICAN HANOVERIAN

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Spring Dressage Show Wrap-up in California

Hanoverians led the victory lap during many of the shows in California this spring.

KATHLEEN RAINE BLEW AWAY THE competition in the FEI Young Horse Six-Year-Old finale at the Dressage at DG Bar show in Hanford, Calif., on May 11-13, with a superb score of 86.00% on her new Hanoverian mare Breanna (Brentano II/Weltmeyer). Breanna received a 9.4 on her trot, 8.8 on her walk, and 8.5 on her canter from judges Marilyn Payne and Heather Mason. The mare was a bit too forward in the medium canter circle, so that brought her submission score down to 7.8.

"She was really good throughout the weekend," said Raine. "She was just a little bit tense in the canter today and the changes weren't as good as they've been. But I was thrilled with her. She's such a fun horse. She is the most comfortable horse I've ever sat on."

[BY SHERI SCOTT]

Raine describes Breanna as a cross between her top horses Avontuur and Fidelia. She says Breanna has the exciting movement of Avontuur and the honesty of Fidelia.

Raine's husband David Wightman found Breanna at the Elite auction in Verden in the fall of 2004, and purchased her in partnership with Jennifer Mason of Orange, Calif. Raine was competing at the California Dressage Society Championships at the time, and Wightman called and said he had found the perfect horse for her. Raine describes Breanna as a cross between her top horses Avontuur and Fidelia. She says Breanna has the exciting movement of Avontuur and the honesty of Fidelia.

"She's hot and she's sensitive but once she understands you she's great," said Raine. "She's going to be a really trusting horse, she just needs experience."



SHERI SCOTT PHOTOS

SUCCESS AT DEL MAR — Teri Hallman won the \$350 FEI Test for Five-Year-Old Horses, finale class riding Dr. Hilary Austen's Amore RBF with a 72.800% from judge William Solyntjes. **Facing:** Adrienne Lyle, Debbie McDonald's new assistant, showed Peggy Thomas's four-year-old Dolce (Dressage Royal-Enja) to wins in all of her classes at First Level.

"I was showing her in the Third Level classes throughout the weekend (at DG Bar) and she got a couple of 75's and a 77," said Raine. "So that gave me some confidence for the six-year-old class. I thought to myself, I've got to go in today and turn it up a little."

Raine took Breanna to a few shows last year just trying to get her exposed to all the sights and sounds, but didn't enter any classes until February of this year.

Teri Hallman made the long trip from Payson, Ariz., to California twice in three weeks with great success. At the Del Mar National Dressage Show in Del Mar, Calif., on April 27-30, she won the \$350 FEI Test for Five-Year-Old Horses, finale class riding Dr. Hilary Austen's Amore RBF with a 72.800% from judge William Solyntjes.

"He is the coolest little young horse in the world!" laughed Hallman. "For a

five-year-old he's so calm and so quiet. And he's got three really, really good gaits."

Hallman was looking for a nice amateur mount for her client Austen, and saw Amore on a video from Michelle Lauber at Legacy Hills Farms in Castle Rock, Colo. She liked what she saw, so Austen sent their farrier, Vernon Purdy, who is an equine structural specialist, to see Amore in person. Purdy gave him the okay and Amore came to Hallman last summer.

"We bought him as an adult amateur horse, but he's really correct, so we thought we'd put him in the young horse classes just for the heck of it. He's been doing very well," said Hallman. "He always gets 8's for his walk and 7's on his canter."

At the DG Bar show, Amore (Alabaster-Walane/Wandervogel) placed second in the five-year-old preliminary test with an 80.2% and second in the finale with a 77.600%. ▶

Hallman also won the High Performance Intermediaire I class at DG Bar with a 70.250% on her Hanoverian gelding Fontainebleau (Wanderer-SPS Wischnu/Wenzel I). She found the 18-hand chestnut at Holga Finken's barn in Germany as a three-year-old.

"He's well proportioned so he doesn't look that big," said Hallman, who is a petite 120 pounds. "He's very light to ride. He's very, very sensitive and very sweet and very well mannered.

"I didn't warm up much (at DG Bar) because it was so blooming hot," said Hallman. "Basically I just tried to get him on the aids. If I keep running through the movements with him it wears him out. I just said to myself 'I'm going to get him in front of my leg and on the aids and ride down the centerline and see what happens.' The last time I got a 70% this year was when he pulled a shoe and I had a ten-minute warm up and I was panicking. I did a little walk-trot-canter then and I went down the centerline. So I'm thinking there might be something to this. I'm thinking that maybe I need to change my warm up!"

Fontainebleau had some bobbles in the Prix St. Georges test, and received scores ranging from 9's to 4's.

"He's either really, really on or he's really, really not on," said Hallman. "We have to get a little better on the consistency. I went on a trail ride the day after my Prix St. Georges and thought about the test. We're still learning things, we're getting better, and we're getting stronger. Dressage is a process and I'm having a good time doing it. I love my horse and I really enjoy riding my horse and that's all that matters.

"So I went in to the Intermediaire I with that attitude and we received a 70% and won the class," said Hallman. "I think the trail ride helped. We just needed to get away from the show environment."

At Del Mar CDI two weeks earlier, Fontainebleau placed eighth in the Prix St. Georges with a 63.750% and sixth in the Intermediaire I with a 65.833%.

"I'm was not unhappy with him," said Hallman. "His frame is getting better and he's getting more self-carriage. I learn so much from this horse. He's the horse of a lifetime for me."

Tanya Vik of San Rafael, Calif., won the High Performance Prix St. Georges class



Divinity 3 and Tanya Vik returned to their winning ways in the FEI High Performance classes after a broken splint bone and subsequent surgery sidelined the pair in January.

at DG Bar with a 70.250% on her ten-year-old Hanoverian gelding Divinity 3. DG Bar was only his second show back after having surgery in January for a broken splint bone. Their first outing was Del Mar and they didn't have the best of shows, placing out of the top ten in both CDI classes. They did win Thursday's open Intermediaire I class at Del Mar with a 65.500%. Divinity's training at home had not been going well either in the week between shows, so Vik wasn't sure what to expect at DG Bar.

"I was a little surprised that he was as good as he was," said Vik of the DG Bar show. "He's sort of in that training phase where he's learning to passage and the half halts at the trot are getting a little messed up. If I half halt he wants to passage, so we have moments of 'thanks for passaging, but not now!' I was sweating bullets that it wasn't going to come out here.

"He felt like he was really happy to be here competing," said Vik. "He's a horse that loves to go out and do stuff. His trot work here was some of the better trot work that he's done in tests. He was able to carry a lot more fluidness than he sometimes does. Things have been feeling more solid and more together."

Divinity 3, by Don Primero out of Rhapsodie/Ampere, had a good test in the Intermediaire I and placed second with a 68.583% behind Fontainebleau. Vik said she messed up on the two tempi's because she was a little late in asking for one of the changes, but otherwise the test felt very similar to their Prix St. Georges test.

Now Vik is concentrating on the Grand Prix movements with Divinity 3.

"He loves to passage, he thinks that's the best thing ever", said Vik. "I think it's going to be really fun to move him up to Grand Prix."

Nicole Perry also competed with Violet Jen's Hanoverian stallion Rubino Bellissimo (Rubinstein I-Bellissimo/Bergkristall) in the High Performance classes at DG Bar. They placed second in the Grand Prix with a 66.250% and third in the Grand Prix Special with a 63.933%. This was the first Grand Prix Special test in competition for the ten-year-old stallion.

River Grove Farm of Hailey, Idaho, also brought out two of their young horses at the Del Mar show. Adrienne Lyle, Debbie McDonald's new assistant, showed the four-year-old Dolce (Dressage Royal-Enja) to wins in all of her classes. They won two First Level, Test 1 Junior/Young Rider/Amateur classes with scores of 82.593% and 75.925%, and a First Level, Test 2 class in the same division with a 77.647%. Lyle also showed Peggy Thomas's five-year-old gelding Whidbey (Waikiki-West Virginia) to a win in the Second Level, Test Junior/Young Rider/Amateur class with a 70.000%. ■

AHS member Sheri Scott is a nationally acclaimed photographer who resides in Folsom, Calif. Sheri's articles and award-winning photographs regularly appear in such publications as The Chronicle of the Horse, Dressage Today and Hunter & Sport Horse.