

Don't Super-Size me!

By: Ann Daum Kustar

The Westfalen German Riding Pony has a BIG reputation in Europe and around the world. This isn't surprising considering Westfalen has the largest breeding program for GRP's in the world. Ponies from the Westfalen region regularly win and place in the Bundeschampionate each year. Size isn't all that matters!

Just as the letter D is a leader in Warmblood dressage pedigrees, in Westfalen ponies a D stands for consistent success from the famous Dressman I – champion of his licensing and performance test, four-time Bundeschampion under four different riders, multiple time European Dressage Pony Champion, and legendary sire with 40 approved sons, 25 states premium daughters, and over 150 offspring with success in sport. Dressman's great grandsire is the foundation sire Dandy - found in so many top pony pedigrees, including Derano Gold, Golden Dancer, and many more. One of Dressman's most famous sons, Dance Star AT was champion stallion at his main licensing as well as Bundeschampion in 2009. Dance Star AT is represented in North America by 2013 N.A. pony stallion performance test winner Fox Creek's Diamond King (Dance Star AT x StPrSt Loretta - Kennedy).

The Westfalen pony D-line became golden for Westfalen pony breeders in Germany and North America – once again descending from Dandy, through important sire Golden Dancer (Dandy) x Golden



Dressman I



Patchwork Ranch's Nuno (Nabucco R x Van Gogh R)

Charm – Valentino). Golden Dancer is damsire of FS Don't Worry as well as sire of the influential FS Golden Moonlight, and is responsible for bringing the popular golden coat and name to Westfalen breeding. Famous representatives of this D-to-G line include Roselane Sporthorses powerful duo of multi-Bundeschampion pony stallions Golden State and Golden West.

Another double Bundeschampion pony stallion standing in North America represents the very successful N-line – The Patchwork Ranch's Nuno (Nabucco R x Vroni – Van Gogh R). Nuno brought home Bundeschampion title twice in the pony jumpers. Highlighting the incredible versatility and quality of this line, he also qualified the same year for the Dressage Pony Bundeschampionate! Coming from a very strong, traditional sire line – Nabucco R was vice champion of his

30-day test and earned many wins in international dressage competition – as did his sire Notre Beau! The N-sire line goes back to important Arabian foundation stallion Nalet ox. Nuno's damsire Van Gogh R competed to M-Level dressage and in 2001 won the Bundeschampion title for jumping ponies.

Hilltop Farm's Popeye (FS Pour l'Amour x StPrSt Nice Touch – Night Star) is a classic Westfalen pony stallion who brings a very special motherline through a series of top-producing States Premium mares including hard-to-pronounce but influential StPrSt Nibelungenblut and StPrSt Nibelungenlied!

Another performance Westfalen line descending from foundation sire Valentino is represented by Voyager (Vivaldi x Nirvana - Night-Power). Voyager accomplished the rare task of winning both Dressage and Eventing Bundeschampionates in 2006.

While beyond the scope of this article, Westfalen GRP's can excel in dressage under adults or juniors, as well as in the more traditional Children's Hunter ring. Combined Driving is a popular sport for GRP's, and the



Fox Creek Farm's Diamond King (Dance Star AT x StPrSt Loretta)



RoseLane Sporthorses Bundeschampion Golden State, photo by LL.Foto

Several North American breeders have imported States Premium mares into their programs, bringing the genetic treasure of the mare line to back up their sire line dynasties!

Westfalen GRP's can excel in dressage under adults or juniors, as well as in the more traditional Children's Hunter ring. Combined Driving is a popular sport for GRP's, and the



Hilltop Farm's Popeye by FS Pour l'Amour

Eventing world is also catching on that junior and petite riders can win on a proportionally-sized mount. Some eligible breeds for the GRP include German, Dutch, and British Riding Ponies, Welsh B, C, D and A, New Forest, Connemara and other pony breeds, as well as carefully chosen Arabians, Anglo-Arabians, and Warmbloods.