

Bon Balou Best Jumper Stallion at the Stallion Performance Test in the U.S.

[BY DR. LUDWIG CHRISTMANN]

SIX-YEAR-OLD BON BALOU, BY Balou du Rouet/Argentinus, won the jumper portion of the 70-Day Test at Silver Creek Farm in Tulsa, Okla. with an index of 125.04 points. His overall index of 118.96 placed him in a good third position out of 21 participating stallions. The dressage index of the eye-catching chestnut stallion was also above average with 110.55 points (8th place). The breeder of Bon Balou is Heinrich Wecke, Stadthagen. On Verden's stallion market in 2008, Jens Peter Aggesen bought Bon Balou. He was used as a breeding stallion on the Breeding Farm WM in Reessum. Last year, Dreamscape Farm, which is located near the metropolitan city of Vancouver in the most western part of Canada, bought the stallion. In the stallion performance test, he impressed greatly not only with his powerful jumping ability and his almost unlimited potential, but also with effective trot movement and a good canter. Bon Balou's dam line is certainly noteworthy. La Belle's dam Larika delivered three horses with successes at the S-level including the approved sire Albatros.

Another Hanoverian sire successfully completed the performance test: Vive Victory out of the breeding program of Knights Gate Farm in

Welland, Ontario. This son of Viva Voltaire, by Voltaire out of a dam by Akzent II, was approved last summer at the stallion inspection on Hilltop Farm in Maryland, USA. This stallion with his nice long lines proved his versatile predisposition in the performance test and finished with an overall index of 109.97 points (9th place), a dressage index of 113.43 (6th place) and a jumper index of 106.27 (10th place).

The impressive Oldenburg stallion Qredit, by Quarterback/Dream of Glory, (breeder: Judy Yancey; exhibitor: Hilltop Farm), became the testing's champion (126.59) and the winner of the dressage index (135.93). He also proved his jumping talent (113.16 points/6th place). Qredit is an important stallion of considerable size with a very good neck. His three basic gaits are far above average. He would be a good match for lighter-type, blood-influenced mares.

The stallion Bliss MF from Zweibruecken finished the performance test in second place with an overall index of 122.31 points. Bliss FM is another son of Balou du Rouet and also out of a dam by Argentinus (exhibitor: Marabet Farm, Florida).

Bon Balou (Balou du Rouet-La Belle/Argentinus) impressed with his jumping ability and almost unlimited potential.



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As expected, this well built, bay stallion proved his talent as a jumper. His ability, his ease at the fences and his very good technique were awarded with a jumping index of 124.23/2nd place. He also impressed with the quality of his basic gaits and his rideability (dressage index 119.44/3rd place).

The Hanoverian approval committee, which attended the final days of the performance test, approved the top two stallions as well as five-year-old Contratto (owner: Mark Brooks and Alexandra Naftzger, Missouri), an American Holstein stallion by Contendro/Lord Calando (total index 114.38/5th place, jumper index 118.58/3rd place, dressage index 109.08/9th place) and the four-year-old Westphalian Lord Adonis, by Lordanos/Raphael, (owner: Mount Olympus Equestrian LLC, Texas), with an overall index of 111.58/8th place, a jumper index of 111.83/7th place and a dressage index of 110.78/7th place. Just as Bliss MF, Contratto is a lighter-type, agile, but very athletic horse with a very good working willingness and an excellent jumping technique.

Lord Adonis impressed because of his good type and his long legs. He clearly is still developing. In jumping, his ability was especially impressive; in the dressage test, he received high rideability values. His sire Lordanos is known to produce a ground covering walk and a good canter.

These four sires are a valuable addition to the ones which already are available to the breeders of North America. Their pedigrees are already proven in Germany and are not yet available in the USA or in Canada.

“Jumper stallions clearly dominated this year's test. The results of the top stallions were close together – even ▶

more so than the index points express. I was especially excited about the fact that many stallions were much better prepared than last year,” Training Leader Harald Hoffmann commented. In agreement with the German FN and the participating breed associations, the results were tabulated in accordance with the old SPT-model. The judges Antonius Bornemann and Georg van den Boom as well as the test riders Gerd Koenemann (jumping) and Kim Pfeiffer (dressage) have SPT-experience from Germany. In accordance with the new training’s model, Paul Gummelt was invited as the training’s supervisor. Host Summer Stoffel emphasized that this year’s test was the biggest test of all, which

were conducted at Silver Creek Farm. The stallion owners were not only satisfied about the condition of their respective stallions upon entering the final days, but especially how fit they still were after the conclusion of the test. This test was a big step towards establishing the stallion performance test in North America. For additional information, please visit www.nastalliontesting.com. ■

MY HANOVERIAN – WHAT’S YOUR STORY?

Do you share a unique bond with your Hanoverian as a competition partner? As a dedicated schoolmaster? As an irreplaceable member of your family?

The AHS is looking for short stories and accompanying photos to use in **The American Hanoverian** magazine. Tell us what makes your Hanoverian so special!

For consideration, entries should consist of a short essay depicting your horse’s remarkable qualities and one or two high quality, high resolution color digital photos (2000 x 3000 pixels minimum, JPG format) submitted via email to AHS Publications Editor Terri Ralenkotter at ahs_editor@hanoverian.org.

I N P A S S I N G

Falsterbo (1998-2012)

Falsterbo took home a ribbon from his very first Grand Prix test under Jonny Hilberath. In the 2006 and 2007 seasons he won advanced (S) to Intermediare I dressage classes and placed in the Burg Pokal. In 2009, under Steffan Frahm, Falsterbo won the Prix St. Georges-Special in Verden and the Prix St. Georges in Bremen. Meanwhile, he placed over 40 times in advanced dressage classes up to Grand Prix. With placings in elementary (L) level show jumping, Falsterbo obviously had a double talent and his offspring are successful in dressage rings as well as on courses.

In the 2012 *Stallion Yearbook (FN)* Falsterbo’s overall score was 124, putting him in the top 10% for dressage stallions. In 2008, two Falsterbo sons were licensed in Verden. One was the winner of the Foal Championships in Elmloh in 2006. Fitzgeraldos from Falsterbo’s first crop was licensed in 2005. The three-time young horse class winner, Flynn PCH, was champion of his 30-Day Stallion Performance Test with a final score of 8.45. His other licensed stallion son, Florimon, was the winner of the dressage index in his 30-Day Stallion Performance Test with a dressage score of 8.06.

Three Falsterbo daughters received a State Premium at the Broodmare Show in Elmlohe in 2008, and SPS Fiene placed at the Louis-Wiegels Show in Sandbostel. At the 127th Fritzlar Horse Market, a Falsterbo daughter named Fleury was the overall winner.



Cross the Bridge in peace, Bo. We look forward to meeting you in the future. From the bottom of our hearts, there will forever be a void at the farm as a result of your absence. Your presence was larger than life, and we are all the better for having known you. You were truly a gift to us, a gift we will forever treasure. ■

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