Michelle Folden and Grande Crimson Win USEF/Markel Young Dressage Horse Selection Trials for Central USA

In a small but impressive field of 6-year-olds, the judges at the 2006 USEF/Markel Young Horse Central Selection Trial at the Paxton Farm CDI in Ohio were pleased with all entries presented before them, noting qualities in each horse which could make them “a horse for the future.”

But it was Andrea Driscoll’s Grande Crimson, a registered Canadian Warmblood mare by the Hanoverian stallion Rio Grande which “enchanted” them the most, winning the blue cooler and top honors in the first leg of three Young Horse Selection Trials for the FEI World Championships for Young Horses, and the USEF/Markel National Young Horse Championships. Rider/Trainer Michelle Folden was joined by her family for the Mother’s Day weekend show in Batavia, Ohio, but she admits her owner didn’t know about the venture.

“I knew she was a special horse, and wanted to prove it not just for myself, but to the judges as well.” said the attractive young mother of two boys.

“I was putting enough pressure on myself coming here, and didn’t want to disappoint her if it did not go well, but surprise her if it did. She is a wonderful owner and client, and now we can all go to Kentucky in September and have a great time!”

Online Foal Auction Runs with Improvements in 2006

By Barbara Daley

Following a successful year in 2005, Canadian Warmblood will once again host the Online Foal Auction for 2006. The entirely web based sales program features weanling warmblood foals. Application for horses from any one of the three Canadian registries – Canadian Sport Horse, Canadian Trakehner and Canadian Warmblood – are welcome.

Feedback from 2005’s participants was extremely positive. One of the buyers was Elizabeth Wilson, DVM, a small animal veterinarian practicing in Victoria, British Columbia. “I was very interested in supporting the Canadian breeding industry plus the opportunity to purchase a young unspoiled and sound horse was a benefit. The fact that I was dealing directly with the owner was a big plus. The photos, pedigree and performance records of the sire and dam are important but I made my decision based on the video.”

Sheila Durand of Tackaberry Farm in Airdrie, Alberta was one of the consignors. She did not succeed in selling a horse but felt her experience overall was very positive. “We entered our foal Achilles in the Online Auction, not really to sell him but to showcase the quality of horse we are breeding. With a minimum price of $20,000 I did not expect much response but was hoping for exposure. To my great surprise we had many calls, sent out seven videos and he was bid up to over $14,000. Due to a hernia he had to be gelded shortly after birth. If he was entire I am quite sure he would be sold for our asking price. I have two clients awaiting this year’s birth of his dam’s Lap Top foal, and hoping for a stud colt.”

Based on additional feedback, the auction system will offer improvements, including upgraded registration security and enhancements on the Auction page. Additional lead time will be available this year too. Applications will be accepted starting June 7th. The auction will go live on August 7th. Bidding will open on September 7th and continue until the individual lot closings between September 16th – 23rd.

Those wishing to participate need to start planning right away. Registration is a requirement and should be arranged as early as possible. Professional grade photos are mandatory. Video is highly recommended.

More information on the auction can be found at www.OnlineFoalAuction.com.