Canadian Warmbloods Win All Futurity Prizes

Edmonton, Alberta — During the first weekend of August, competitors gathered at Amberlea Meadows in Edmonton, Alberta for its Summer Dressage Festival. The Event ran the Prairie Zone’s Canadian Performance Futurity Dressage classes for the second year, with an increase in the number of horses vying for the cash prizes.

Winner of the four-year-old class was the young stallion Whirlwind II, who is owned by MJ Farms and was ridden by Laura Iversen. The licensed Canadian Warmblood, bred by John and Jacquie van den Bosch, is by Haarlem out of Sophia.

“We of course are thrilled. Whirlwind has been very successful in the hunter ring winning 2 out of 2 championships this summer,” commented Jennette Coote of MJ Farms, who stands this young stallion. “Now to add the Futurity Dressage win is a big bonus. We believe that this is a terrific program and it should be very well supported by both the breeding and sport communities.”

Second place in the four-year-old class was S H Beauhana, a chestnut mare bred by Lauri and Henry deGroot and owned by Caroline Locke. Beauhana who is by Beau Soleil and out of Hannah II, is a graduate of the Fall Classic Breeders Sale and performed very well for her amateur owner.

The five-year-old class was won by Encore III, who is owned by Krista and Alex Aasman. Encore, a Canadian Warmblood mare ridden by Sheri Bresee and bred by her father Garry Bresee, is by Eastern Ruler out of Maggie. Encore is also a graduate of the Fall Classic Breeders Sale, and was returned to Sheri for training.

“This was an important award and the program is a major support for both breeders & owners;” commented Garry following the cooler presentation.

Clean Sweep at Prairie Zone Futurity

Red Deer, Alberta — Earlier in 2007 the Canadian Performance Futurity’s Prairie Zone held its Dressage classes in Edmonton, Alberta. A quick glance at the results for those classes reveals a lineup of Canadian Warmbloods as the prize winners. On August 31st, the Hunter and Jumper classes were held at the Alberta Hunter Horse Society Year End Show. Once again, the ribbons awarded through to fifth place, in the four and five-year-old classes, went to Canadian Warmblood horses.

This is no surprise, as Alberta is one of many hotbeds of warmblood breeding in Canada. The national program, which is open to registered horses, sees entrants which are Hanovarian, Oldenburg, Canadian Sport Horse, Thoroughbred and much more. The common factor is that these horses are Canadian bred.

Regardless of the registry of choice, owners and breeders of the horses nominated to the futurity share a common vision, which is to demonstrate through performance that these horses have the qualities to be competitive internationally.

Waterloo II was one of those horses. As champion of both the Four-Year-Old Hunter & Jumper classes, he demonstrated that pedigree selection is important. By Larino and out of a Ferro daughter, the gelding bred and owned by John and Jacquie van den Bosch was ridden to top honours by their daughter Femke.
It was a graduate from the Fall Classic Breeders Sale who took home the winner’s cooler in the Five-Year-Old Hunter class. Tyr, by MJ Pax and out of a Wermiszel mare, was purchased as a two-year-old by Anne Stollbert from breeder Heather Osterhout. Tyr was a Futurity finalist the previous year under the same rider, Cody Peach.

Top position in the Five-Year-Old Jumper class went to a Foxhunter / Wodan son. Flurry’s bloodlines were showcased by rider Shawna Cook from Carosel Ridge, the owner and breeder of the young jumper.

While the program is in its infancy, its vision is long-term. “Nominating your young horse will be a big sale point in the future”, commented Jennette Coote, Chair of the program and owner of a young stallion which participated and placed in all three disciplines. She cites the support and recognition successful competitors receive: “This is a very good program and it is starting to get the recognition from riders and trainers.”

Thunderbird Show Park
Showcases all Disciplines of Pacific Zone Futurity

Fort Langley, British Columbia – This year marked the second anniversary for the Canadian Performance Futurity, and once again, Thunderbird Show Park in Fort Langley, British Columbia, showcased the classes for the Pacific Zone. Seeing expansion in the program, classes for five-year-old horses were now offered in addition to the previously held four-year-old classes. Additionally, jumper classes were also held for the first time in this zone, in addition to the hunter and dressage classes.

Running all three disciplines at one event allowed some of the young horses to be cross entered with ease. One such horse was Formation, a four-year-old Canadian Warmblood by Formaat and out of a Consul mare. The young stallion finished in top place in both the dressage and hunter classes. “This is our second year at Thunderbird with the program”, said rider Susanne Paulson-Suerink. “I am personally so excited about this young stallion I am riding for Rafter 5 Ranch. For such a big horse, he is so easy to ride and extremely willing.” Formation was licensed for breeding at the time of the competition, and went on to complete the Stallion Performance Test a few weeks later, to achieve full breeding approval.

Other veteran participants were Jennifer and Armin Arnoldt of Dreamscape Farm, breeders of Freelance DSF. This five-year-old Westfalen claimed the winner’s cooler in the dressage class for the second year in a row. “We are very pleased with the program and excited about the promotion of young Canadian bred horses in the performance ring”, enthused Jennifer. Freelance is by Freestyle, an approved stallion owned by Dreamscape Farm, and out of Bianca, by Uniform.

While Dreamscape was hoping for the same results in the Five-Year-Old Hunter classes, they had to take second place to a new performer. The elegant Porsha K, took the honours under rider Jack Hammond for owner Pam Metal. The Canadian Warmblood mare by Popeye K also held for the first time in this zone, in addition to the hunter and dressage classes.
The jumper classes were held in conjunction with the Canadian Jumper Development Series. This series has taken a foothold in eastern Canada and is being ramped up in the western parts of the country. Its challenging format is run under similar criteria set out by the world’s strongest show jumping programs.

Four-year-old Canadian Warmblood, Magnum, claimed the winner’s prize for owner and breeder Beach Grove Stables. Magnum, is by Vulcaan and out of an Argus mare.

Panache was the victor in the Five-Year-Old Jumper class. The Canadian Warmblood gelding by Pour Gagne bred by Dr. Heather Lynn Smith-Oberten of Alberta, was ridden by Rodney Tulloch for owner Laura Penikett. The pair went on to challenge the same class in the Prairie Zone, in the following weeks.

Marilyn Powell, Pacific Zone representative for the Futurity commented on the venue: “This big summer show gave the horses great exposure, with some of them entered in the regular hunter and jumper divisions. Spectators were amazed that such young horses were so steady at such a busy venue.” She indicated interest from other trainers and professionals was a sign that the classes would become more and more competitive in the future, and continued with her thanks for to the show organizers, “The management at Thunderbird went over and beyond to accommodate us and make sure everything ran as scheduled.”

Winner of the Four-Year-Old class was Riga, a Hanoverian mare bred by Mill Creek Stables and owned by Shem Hunt-Serazin. Riga, a Rapheal daughter out of a Carte d’Or mare, has been under the tutelage of Carly Campbell-Cooper, who was sidelined for this event with a broken leg. She watched with pride as international rider Yann Candele navigated the horse to the top position, with the highest combined scores for performance and style. This power combination also saw Riga appointed as Canadian Champion of the 2007 Jumper Development Series later in the week.

The following day, in the Jumper Annex Ring, offered competition under a completely different format. Both jumper classes were held within the existing Jumper Development class. Horses participating had been presented in this series all season, and the competition was good.

Tournament of Champions

Palgrave, Ontario – For the second year running, Tournament of Champions featured Canadian Performance Futurity classes. Both the hunter and jumper classes for the Eastern Zone were run on September 19th and 20th. Classes were offered for both four-year-and five-year-old horses. The main criterion for eligibility was that the horses were bred in Canada. They also had to be nominated to the program in advance of the class.

The hunter classes were held in the main hunter ring at the Caledon Equestrian Park. As the final outdoor show for Ontario’s A Circuit, Tournament can always be counted on to provide a festive atmosphere. Hundreds of flowers, shrubs and pumpkins were made available to professional decorator, Evie Frisque, who presented the young horses with a simply stunning ring.

Betraying his young age of four years, Rio’s Showman W marched around the well dressed ring like a seasoned professional to win the class. The over fences round put in by the Canadian Sport Horse gelding by Rio Grande and out of a Dimitrij mare, was considered by hunter judge Frank Willard to be the “best trip I’ve seen all day”. Rio’s Showman W came back for the under saddle component of the hunter class, performing equally well, to win the top place for his owner Aubrie deSylva of Oakville, Ontario. Showman, ridden by Rob Carey of Caco Equestrian Centre, is trained by Di Langmuir and was bred by Augustin Walch of W Charlot Farms.

The five-year-old class for hunters included participants from the previous year. However it was a new contender who won the class. Hepburn, under Erryn Ballard, brought home the prize cooler for owner Heather Delfino. Bred by Karen Noble, this Canadian Sport Horse mare (registered as Votif), by Popeye K and out of a Thoroughbred mare, is in her first year of showing and has been campaigned actively in the Pre Green divisions throughout the season.

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Another successful power combination from the Futurity’s Hunter classes, demonstrated their skills were transferable to the jumper ring with a different mount. Augustine (registered as Rio’s Lucio W), was ridden by Rob Carey to top honours for owner Aubrie deSylva and trainer Di Langmuir. The Canadian Sport Horse gelding by Rio Grande and out of a Serg’ej mare was also a product of Augustin Walch’s breeding program at W Charlot Farms. Augustine was also appointed Canadian Champion for the Jumper Development Series against an extremely competitive field of domestically bred & imported horses.

The Canadian Performance Futurity, which is open to registered and Canadian bred horses, is funded in part by the Canadian Breeders’ Initiative Fund (CBIF). CBIF supports Canadian breeders of horses for the FEI disciplines, providing financial assistance to initiatives which profile multiple breed registries, with a preference to Canadian organizations. The CBIF is administered by Equine Canada and funded with charitable donations.

More on the Canadian Performance Futurity, including information for nominating horses, can be found at www.CanadianPerformanceFuturity.com and www.canadianwarmbloods.com