

REPORT OF THE KWPN NATIONAL MARE- AND FOAL KEURING (NMK), Ermelo 2021

DRESSAGE MARES AND FOALS

The supply of dressage mares was very high this year: the considerable number of 740 mares was presented at the studbook inspections. Of the 52 mares invited for the National Mare Inspection, 47 were present in Ermelo to compete in the championship (sponsored by Kalfsbeek). A beautiful group of fourteen valuable dressage mares were selected for the final round. They formed the highlight of a successful mare inspection season, with Niana V.O.D. (by Desperado) taking home the Champion's title. It turned out to be a year with especially a lot of quality in movement. GLOCK's Toto Jr. really put his stamp, with three daughters in the top 5.

Niana V.O.D. leading dressage mare in a strong year

Brabant Central Keuring champions always provide stiff competition at the NMK. This year, that was no different. The genetically interesting Niana V.O.D. (Desperado out of Zoriana elite IBOP-dres pref prest PROK by Jazz) won the regional title in De Mortel in Brabant thanks to a great performance, and she did it all over again in Ermelo. She is bred by Ad van Os, and convinced round after round. This to the great pleasure of the audience and the jury, consisting of chairman Marian Dorresteijn, Bart Bax and Toine Hoefs.

Out of a leading group of fourteen mares, this full sister of the KWPN-approved stallion Mowgli V.O.D. and half-sister of the KWPN-approved stallion Kjento (by Negro), who has been selected for the World Championships in Verden, emerged as the fantastic and obvious champion. "This is a youthful and very appealing mare with a nice upward build. She can switch very well in movement, excels with her self-carriage, and stays very nicely closed from behind with every step. With enough relaxation she also has very good use of the foreleg, and she has a lot of suppleness and scope in the walk. Niana V.O.D. is a very complete champion!" says Marian Dorresteijn.

Family Success

NMK champion Niana V.O.D. follows in the footsteps of her half-sister Heliana V.O.D. (by Davino V.O.D.), who was elected national champion in 2015 and now serves the breeding program of the Van Os family. As a three-year-old, dam Zoriana also achieved a top-10 placing in the National Mare Keuring Finals and then passed the IBOP with 90 points, with a rare 10 for her trot. We can clearly see that Niana V.O.D. inherited her quality, but Ad van Os did not expect that she would become NMK champion until last spring. "Zoriana's offspring are always good as a foal, but never very striking. They are horses that really develop a lot in work, and that is also the case with Niana. If you had told me in April this year, that she would perform so tremendously here, I would probably have thought you were crazy", says the breeder, who was voted KWPN Breeder of the Year in 2012.

“The moment our son Jorg started working with her, she started to develop herself very positively.” Jorg agrees: “The horses from this line are all very willing to work and so is Niana. At home on the lunge line, she always showed her quality very well, so our hopes for the inspection grew. Yet she did not show herself optimally at the studbook inspection. She put that right at the Central Inspection. Beforehand we had hoped for a top 3 result. So, it's great that she became champion here!”, responds Jorg van Os, who prepared her himself. At the studbook inspection Niana V.O.D. had also scored quite well with 85 points twice, including 90 for her trot.



Niana V.O.D. (Desperado x Jazz) picture by Jacob Melissen

Succession

Just like mother Zoriana and half-sister Heliana V.O.D., Niana V.O.D. will stay with the Van Os family to serve their breeding program. “I have to say that after the championship title at the Central Inspection, people already made it quite difficult for us not to sell her. We got a lot of offers, but we don't want to sell her. Her mother was also very much in demand at the time, and I am still grateful every day that we never sold her, because Zoriana has brought us so much in breeding: we will never get such a mare again”, says Ad from Os. “With Niana we hope to have a great successor and she has the most similarities of all daughters so far. We have a Glamourdale daughter from Zoriana from last year, a five-year-old Negro daughter who is therefore a full sister to Kjento, and of course Heliana. If all goes well, we will have three foals from Zoriana via embryo transfer next year, so we can move forward!”

NMK champion Niana V.O.D. is not bred for 2022. “Because she was still so young, she didn't want to get into heat well and we focused on the inspection. She is now getting some rest

and after that we will get her trained under saddle. We will focus on the sport with her and perhaps use embryo transplantation next year," adds Jorg.

Two from the same line

It was not only the championship of the Van Os family, but also of the Van der Linde family. In this championship, their mare Nouvelle Feniz Texel (GLOCK's Toto Jr. out of Feniz Texel elite sport- dres PROK by Negro), finished in a wonderful second place. Three years ago, she was the undisputed auction winner at the Prinsjesdag Foal Auction, where she was bought for €85,000 by the Dantism family from Dubai for their then ten-year-old daughter Aaliyah. They chose to have Nouvelle grow up with her breeders, who prepared her for the inspection. "This Toto Jr. daughter has very good connections in her model and has a nice upward conformation. She has a lot of charisma and moves with a lot of self-carriage. She impresses with her good trot in hand and has already cantered for 90 points at the studbook inspection. She also managed to convince in the walk," says Marian.

Full sisters

Nouvelle Feniz Texel is bred out of a full sister of the 2016 NMK champion Iveniz Texel RS2 (by Negro), who is also a half-sister of the KWPN-approved stallion Enzo Ferrari (by Painted Black). From the same line comes the as third placed Nashville DS (Painted Black out of Keyveniz Texel stb- ext pref D-OC by Negro), from breeders Daan Staller and Danique Broekema. Nashville DS became champion in North Holland. The mothers of these numbers two and three are full sisters and the breeders of Nashville DS bought her mother Keyveniz Texel as a foal from the Van der Linde family.

"Nashville DS is a beautiful, modern mare, that is built uphill. She has an elegant type with good connections, and she moves very light-footed with good self-carriage. Within this strong top 3, she should have had just a little more power in movement to overtake her two predecessors."

Daan Staller and Danique Broekema have bred three direct hits in one year out of the now deceased Keyveniz Texel. Because in addition to Nashville DS, her half-sister Newveniz DS (by GLOCK's Toto Jr.) also made it to the National Championships and last winter, Keyveniz Texel's son Nintendo DS (by Just Wimphof) appointed for the performance test.

Texel breeding program

Nouvelle Feniz Texel and Nashville DS thus provided great publicity for the breeding program of Wim and Annemarie van der Linde from Texel. "We have been breeding with this line for generations, but grandmother Veniz really made the difference. Unfortunately, the mare is no longer with us, but our daughter Eva still rides a very good four-year-old stallion son out of her, by GLOCK's Toto Jr. And we still have a two-year-old Toto mare from Veniz," explains Wim van der Linde, who can be seen as a true GLOCK's Toto Jr. fan. "Coincidentally, I recently did calculations and guess what? We have already used him 42 times in our breeding program! He fits very well on our mares. From the very beginning, we have bred four to six mares to him every year."

Reserve champion Nouvelle Feniz Texel is in foal from Las Vegas for next year. "Because her owners live in Dubai, bringing a mare and foal there is not an option. We do everything in consultation and try to keep Nouvelle here for the time being so that Eva can ride her later. She is a great, work willing mare and in this way, she advertises us well. Which is also

very positive for the owners, because they invested a lot in her three years ago," says Wim van der Linde.

Rosatrichta van de Westen champion filly

Rosatrichta van de Westen (Le Formidable out of Itrichta van de Westen elite IBOP-dress PROK by Apache) stood out with her beautiful model and neck. "The most special thing about this foal is that she moves very naturally over her back and through her body", says Johan Hamminga enthusiastic, who judged the dressage foals in this NVK (National Foal Keuring) with Arie Hamoen and Pedro Trommelen. "She is long-legged, luxurious and very strong with a beautiful head. In movement she shows a lot of technique." Cees Kikkert bred this foal out of the well-known Zinni van Wittenstein line, her mother is a half-sister of the KWPN-approved stallion Dorado.

The reserve title also went to a filly: Rylena (Kyton out of My Lena ZL ster D-OC by Blue Hors Zack) owned and bred by Rom Vermunt from Geesteren. It is extra striking that the full brother of this foal, Remy Martin, came third in his group at this NVK this morning. Dam My Lena ZL has qualified for the Pavo Cup final for four-year-old horses, which will take place next Sunday. "This is a foal with a very good dressage type and lot of charisma, she moves remarkably loose through the body."

Best colt

The best colt is, like the champion filly, also a descendant of Le Formidable. Ready To Rumble (out of Eos-Utopia elite IBOP-dres PROK by Ampère) bred by Rik van Gils of Eindhout and owned by Saskia Poel from Heusden and D.H.J.S. Knoops from Wanssum, was third in the championship. "This is a well-developed foal that moves very light-footed and uphill. He has an extra canter."

3-year-old Dressage Mares

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Niana V.O.D.	Desperado out of Zoriana elite IBOP-dres pref prest PROK by Jazz	Ad van Os
2	Nouvelle Feniz Texel	GLOCK's Toto Jr. out of Feniz Texel elite sport-dres PROK by Negro	Wim van der Linde/ Dantism family
3	Nashville DS	Painted Black out of Keyveniz Texel stb-ext pref D-OC by Negro	Daan Staller and Danique Broekema

Dressage Foals

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Rosatrichta van de Westen	Le Formidable out of Itrichta van de Westen Elite Ibop (dressage) prok by Apache	C. Kikkert
2	Rylena	Kyton out of Mylena ZL ster Keur eligible D-OC by Blue Hors Zack	R.M. Vermunt jr
3	Ready to Rumble	Le Formidable x Eos- Utopia Elite ibop(dressage) prok by Ampère	H.A. van Gils/ S. Poel

JUMPER MARES AND FOALS

Of the 24 participating three-year-old jumping mares, seven could be invited for the championship inspection. The mares were first judged on conformation and by hand and then showed themselves free jumping. In contrast to previous years, all mares returned to the main area for the explanation and the announcement of the finalists. The mares that were not in the finalist group, were not placed in quality order. A strong group of seven modern jumper mares, all of whom showed good performance in the free jumping, eventually ensured a nice climax at the National Mare Inspection. The athletic Asca Z-daughter Nirmosa MB received the championship ribbon after a convincing performance and thus stayed ahead of a group of finalists that was dominated by mares from the Northern provinces of the Netherlands.



Nirmosa MB (Asca Z x Vittorio), picture by Dirk Caremans.

Drenthe in front

With two mares from the province of Drenthe, one from Groningen and three from Friesland, it was the North's turn in this NMK final. “We have invited seven mares for the final, all of which are appealing, show a lot of refinement, jumped with good reflexes, are careful and have a lot of athletic ability”, said Henk Dirksen after he had judged all mares together with Henk van den Broek and Bart Henstra. “At the last Olympic Games, we once again received confirmation that these are qualities that the top sport demands. That is where light-footedness, reflexes and athleticism can make the difference.” Eleven years after Chinchidee (by Chin Chin), another mare from Drenthe, was at the top of the National Mare Inspection, the charming Nirmosa MB

(Asca Z out of Dumosa ster PROK by Vittorio) gave Henk Mulder and Trieneke Brink from Drenthe great breeding success. “The champion mare is well developed, is youthful, shows a lot of refinement and charisma. Nirmosa MB has a light-footed canter with good balance. She shows very good reflexes on the jump and can switch forward very well”, Henk Dirksen explains.

Sports line

The champion mare comes out of a half-sister of the Grand Prix stallion Cosun (by Up to Date) and the KWPN-approved stallion Next in Line (by Jukebox). She thus represents a good sport line, from Drenthe. “As small breeders we would never have dared to hope for this! With her good points at the studbook inspection, we hoped for an invitation to the NMK. That she was declared champion in Drenthe, was already such a great honor. We went to Ermelo without expectations and suddenly she was in the final, and it became very exciting!” says Henk Mulder. “It was very nice to be a part of this and we are very proud of Nirmosa. We have a pleasant cooperation with Reinie Tewis, who always prepares our mares for the inspection. He prepared her very well, she was in great shape. Until now, we only breed one foal every year, but hopefully in the future that will be two annually, because Nirmosa has been bred to Pommerol de Muze. But we don't know yet if she caught. She will be broken in by Reinie and then we will try to get her the Elite status through the IBOP. All our goals with her will have been achieved then, after which she will go fully into breeding with us!”

Top scorer

In second place came another interestingly bred mare: Nirmette van 't Studutch (Cornet Obolensky out of Jakarmette-E PROK by Nabab de Rêve), from breeder Sjaak van der Lei, who owns her with his parents Karst and Hilda van der Lei. This mare already excelled at the studbook inspection with scores of 85/90 in the top bar, and now again convinced the judges in Ermelo. “A refined, long-lined mare with a correct foundation. She canters with a lot of impulsion, always has a very good jump and on the higher oxers she finishes the jump very well. She also has a lot of athletic ability.” Granddam Akarmette is a full sister of the Grand Prix show jumper Royal Dream, ridden by Dennis van den Brink.

“She showed herself very well, she has so much looseness, blood and overview by nature,” responds a very satisfied Sjaak van der Lei, who also had success in the dressage mares' group with his own breeding product that finished fifth in the final. “In a while, she will be saddle-broken and then prepared for the IBOP. We might try ICSI with her next winter.”

Sjaak started this line with the dam Jakarmette-E. “When I still lived in Groningen, I always saw Popke van Eik with the best horses at competitions. That's why I wanted to buy a mare from his line and that was Jakarmette-E. We have now sold her to Estonia for sport and breeding, but we first expect two more foals from Baloubet du Rouet and Cornet Obolensky out of her next year. In my opinion, Nirmette is an even more complete jumper than her mother, she is incredibly athletic and can switch gears very well between the jumps and on the jump.” Sjaak van der Lei, who now lives in Brabant, made a conscious decision to present this special Cornet Obolensky daughter in Groningen this summer, where she became champion. “It is very nice to experience this adventure together with my mom and dad, they are also real enthusiasts.”

Refined mare Nikky Vera

The top 3 was completed by the Emir R daughter Nikky Vera (out of Vera sport-jumping by Goodtimes), from breeders Jan Evenhuis and Antoinet Platenkamp, the third gray mare. She was

placed second at the Central Keuring in Drenthe. “Again, a refined and youthful mare with a light-footed canter. In the free jumping she stood out with her good overview and caution, and she showed that she can switch forward very well”, Henk Dirksen explained in the final. Nikky Vera is bred out of the mare Vera, who competed in international sports at 1.40m level herself. The breeders had success three years ago with Vera's daughter Kings Lady (by Vigo d'Arsouilles). At the time, as champion of Drenthe, she reached second place at the National Mare Inspection. Earlier this month, she jumped with Sylvana Wezeman in the Blom Cup in Valkenswaard.

Promising jumper foals

Cor Loeffen, Marcel Beukers and Stan Creemers judged the jumping foals at the National Foal Inspection. In an exciting final, where the quality was high and the differences small, Racoon W (Cantona TN out of Gunanita elite pref IBOP-jump PROK by Corland) was declared champion. “This is a large, long-lined foal that has a good rectangular model”, explains Cor Loeffen. “Especially the riding style and the balance in his canter are clear advantages of this foal.” Joop van Wessel from Zwartebroek is the breeder and owner of Racoon W.

Another colt finished in second place: Rey (Jumper Verdi out of Beau-Odette elite sport-spr PROK by Cartano), bred by H.G. and M.H. Spronk from Kampen. “This is also a very riding-type foal. This morning he was a bit tense, which made his suppleness less in the canter. That was clearly better in the championship round.” Rey will be auctioned in the KWPN Online Foal Auction 3, which starts next Monday and ends on August 23.

The best filly finished third today. This honor went to the Zirocco Blue VDL daughter Rubycara van Seldsum VDL (out of Lynncara SMH ster D-OC by Cornet Obolensky) bred by Esther Hovenga from Jelsum, R.P. de Melker from Grou and VDL Stud from Bears. “This is a very well-developed foal. Her use of the hind leg and suppleness in the canter were positive.”

3-year-old Jumper Mares

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Nirmosa MB	Asca Z out of Dumosa ster PROK by Vittorio	Henk Mulder and Trieneke Brink
2	Nirmette van 't Studutch	Cornet Obolensky out of Jakarmette-E PROK by Nabab de Rêve	Sjaak van der Lei
3	Nikky Vera	Emir R out of Vera sport-jumping by Goodtimes	Jan Evenhuis and Antoinet Platenkamp

Jumper Foals

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Racoon W	Cantona TN out of Gunanita Elite Preferent Ibob (jumping) PROK by Corland	J.W. van Wessel
2	Rey	Jumper Verdi out of Beau- Odette B Elite Sport (jumping) PROK by Cartano	H.G. Spronk & H.G. Spronk
3	Rubycara van Seldsum VDL	Zirocco Blue VDL out of Lynncara SMH Ster Keur eligible D-OC by Cornet Obolensky	E.T. Hovenga/ R.P. de Melker/ VDL Stud

GELDERS MARES AND FOALS

Whoever says ‘Gelders horses’, will say ‘Hekkert family’. The successes of brother and sister Henk and Ria Hekkert are built on the successful breeding of their father Gait. ‘De Tikkeler’ Stables in Wijhe has produced many Gelders champions and added two more during these KWPN Championships.

Goldfinch Amanda II

Participation at the Keurings was not self-evident this year. Ria: “My brother Henk has a possibly hereditary eye condition, which causes his vision to deteriorate rapidly. I actually didn't want to take Robinetty II with me at all, because I already sold her mother pregnant by Markant, and I didn't want to run any unnecessary risk with that. But Henk said: 'We want to sell the foals, so you have to show them together with their mothers. Don't whine, get some auxiliaries for the lame and the blind. Besides, this may be the last year that I can see the foals at the inspection, so I want to take them all with me!'”

Three of the presented Hekkert foals received an invitation for the NVK. Robinetty II became champion of these. She has an appealing type, a beautiful front and strong topline. In her powerful way of moving, she can switch gears very easily. Her sire Henkie (by Alexandro P) was also born at De Tikkeler. The keur eligible mare Zusinetty (by Sam R) is her dam. Henk Hekkert's filly Rosa-Amanda (by Alexandro P.) placed second. According to the judges: “A clear Gelders type filly with a very nice body type. She presented herself with a lot of charisma and good use of the hind leg.”



Nina-Amanda (Alexandro P. x Farrington), picture by Jacob Melissen

Rosa- Amanda comes out of champion maker Amanda II (Ster Keur eligible preferent by Farrington x Zep) and therefore she is the full sister of Nina-Amanda, who a little later in the day was declared champion of the three-year-old mares in the Van Santvoort class. Ria: "Amanda is my brother's goldfinch. After our father passed away, the three of us decided that Henk would be given his horses, and so Amanda went to him. Everything that comes out of her is top notch and has performed well at the Championships."

"Nina-Amanda is already saddle broken and is being prepared for the sport by her owner Coco Soffers," Ria continues, "She rides for the Young Riders herself, so we have a lot of confidence in her. She bought Nina- Amanda almost three years ago, on Boxing Day. She came to see us for another foal but fell in love with Nina immediately. We only had those two foals at that time and said: 'You can buy them both or none, because you can't just leave one here alone.' After both foals moved, we kept in touch. We don't have the opportunity at home to compete the horses, so we are always very happy when other people compete with our horses. Nina-Amanda is a very alert, but super honest mare in handling. And 'halt' means 'halt', we teach them that from an early age."

This year, Ria and Henk have eleven foals, four of which were sold abroad. Ten mares are in foal for next year by the stallions Alexandro P, Floriscourt, Henkie, Hermès, In Style, Jupiler S and Kjento. "Amanda II is of course in foal to Alexandro P again because that is now a proven combination," Ria says. "We have things well organized on the farm now, which is why Henk's deteriorating vision is extra painful: after thirty years of struggling and building up, you want to sit back and enjoy it... but now you get something like this!"

Exceptionally good collection of foals

Six colts and four fillies battled for the Virbac Foal Cup for Gelders foals. Royal Air became champion of the colts. "A long-lined son of Alexandro P with a beautiful front. A clear Gelders type with a lot of 'schwung' and balance in movement," commented the judges. He comes out of keur mare Lione Air (by Edmundo). The bay colt is bred and owned by P. Brand from Ridderkerk. The reserve champion in this section was Ruysdael van Ruijnen, bred and owned by Barbara Brugge from Ruinen. "This son of Kardieno has a good Gelders type, shows an expressive leg technique in movement and canters with power and balance." Ruysdael comes out of the elite sports mare Jamila (by Chippendale). She is a daughter of the preferent ster mare Vodina (by Elegant).

Beautiful 3-year-old mares for the future

In the three-year-old mares- class, forementioned Nina- Amanda thus grabbed the NMK Champions- title. The reserve title went to the champion of the National Day of the Gelders Horse (Central Keuring for Gelders horses), Ninkie. The beautifully modeled and long-lined daughter of Henkie out of the preferent ster mare Blitz (by Voice) moved uphill and powerfully, but slightly less pronounced than a few weeks earlier. This modern Gelders mare is bred and registered by Henk Ermens from Sint Anthonis. Third place went to Nadien MC (Alexandro P out of Ursa elite sport PROK by Zichem), bred and owned by M.C. van der Spek from Moerkapelle. A charming and well- modeled chestnut with length in her body that makes a lot of front and posture in movement.

Champion of 2020 keeps her title

The Onori class for 4 to 7-year-old ster, keur and elite Gelders mares was not a huge class with only three participants, but one with a lot of quality. Wim Versteeg rightly stated that the mares formed very strong competition between them.

The Championship title went to Miss Montreal. This dark chestnut mare by Edmundo, bred and owned by Marcel van Bruggen, showed a formidable appearance, with a lot of lift in the front leg and power from the hind leg. This extra strong moving dark chestnut is a real powerhouse. She was the National Champion of the three-year-old Gelders mares last year and has not lost any of her charm and appearance. Miss Montreal was born out of ster mare Tuwalda by Fabricius.

3-year-old Gelders Mares

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Nina- Amanda	Alexandro P. out of Amanda II ster Keur elig. preferent by Farrington	Henk Hekkert/ Coco Soffers
2	Ninkie	Henkie out of Blitz ster preferent by Voice	Henk Ermens
3	Nadien MC	Alexandro P. out of Ursa elite sport PROK by Zichem	M.C. van der Spek

Gelders Keur & Elite Mares

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Miss Montreal Elite ibop Prok	Edmundo out of Tuwalda ster by Fabricius	Marcel van Bruggen
2	Martine Rona Keur Ibop	Wilson out of Rona Keur preferent by Factor	J. Vonk
3	Kiky- Rona B Elite Sport (dressage), prok	Everdale out of Gyrona- B by Rubus B	G.S.W. te Bokkel/ B.M. Mulder

Gelders Fillies

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion & Overall Champion	Robinetty II	Henkie out of Zusinetty keur eligible by Sam R	Ria Hekkert
2	Rosa- Amanda	Alexandro P. out of Amanda II ster Keur elig. preferent by Farrington	Henk Hekkert
3	Robine Rona	Jupiler S. out of Joanne Rona ster Keur eligible by Alexandro P.	J. Vonk

Gelders Colts

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Royal Air	Alexandro P. out of Lione Air Keur by Edmundo	P. Brand
2	Ruysdael van Ruynen	Kardieno out of Jamila elite sport-dressage by Chippendale	Barbara Brugge
3	Rolex	Mexpression out of Mirona by Hitmaker	J.D. Donker

HARNESS HORSE MARES AND FOALS

All three-year-old Harness mares invited for the NMK, had come to Ermelo. Many talents had already been seen at the four Central Inspections and of course every region wants to deliver the champion. It was the East region that won the title: champion Nalanita was bred in Zwartebroek.

Harness horse champions with X factor

Twenty mares divided in two groups, appeared in front of the jury in the three-year-old queen class. This section was sponsored by Catering Culinair. Nine mares were invited to the final round. Inspector Viggon van Beest: “Overall, it was a nice final group with three very striking mares in the lead.” The jury found that the consistently strong performing Nalanita (Eebert out of Caunita ster pref PROK by Stuurboord), bred by Joop van Wessel from Zwartebroek, was the best. Joop van Wessel has already bred a very large number of well-performing harness horses from this mareline. Icanita, the elite daughter of Colonist who is now owned by Stal Tel and who finished third in the ‘Finale der Nationale’ with Linda Boelens, also comes out of Caunita. “Nalanita is a sharp Harness type mare with a nice upward conformation and a strong topline. In movement, she goes nicely with the withers up. She has a dignified front and a strong use of the hind leg.”



Nalanita (Eebert x Stuurboord), picture by Jacob Melissen.

Nalanita also took the lead at the Central Keuring in East. She became ster there with the points 77-83-80. Mother Caunita produced ten foals. Of these, Icanita (by Colonist) and Hunita (by Manno) are her most famous children. The youngest is a son of Fantijn, born this year. After

Taunita, born in 2000, Stal Van Wessel didn't have a three-year old National champion for a long time, so the entire family was very happy this year in Ermelo. Joop van Wessel: "A three-year old National champion, that was a while ago. That was Taunita, who was also champion several times as a keur mare. Did I fear the competition? Well, I did hear about stiff competition from the south and from the north, but I had faith in my horse."

"We started with Nalanita at the beginning of March," Joop continues. "That's what the girls do here. One trains the riding horses, the other the harness horses. You must put in quite a few months if you want to get them in optimal condition. And then the question is: are they going to do it or not at the keuring? This mare got better every day. You know, it's not that the training is so good, it's that the horse is so good: only then you make progress. You can't train everything on it, it also must be there naturally. Sometimes I load them in the truck and take them somewhere just to teach them how to travel, that's so important. If they do not want to travel, that shows in the performance at the inspection. They should enjoy it and keep enjoying it. Caunita is a great broodmare who breeds well. She's a Stuurboord and I think that's a plus. There is a good line behind it and that means everything," says Joop, who wants to keep this mare for a while.

Triantha line

Niantha (Cizandro out of Fijantha ster by Larix), bred and owned by J.P.C. Ermens from Oploo, became reserve champion. She comes out of the Triantha line, also a renowned breeding line. "A very harness-typical mare with a lot of front, allure and appearance. She has a long neck and her ears always forward, reminding me of multiple time champion Brandy. She has a lot of suspension, and she is strong behind," says Viggon van Beest. Her score at the Central Inspection was 80-82-81. In third place came the champion of the three-year-olds from the North region, Nikita (Icellie out of Julia by Stuurboord), ridden by breeder and owner Rein Bosch from Hellendoorn. Granddam Zinnia used to be a successful competition mare at Stal Bosch. "A harness-typical mare with size that trots powerful with a very active use of the hindleg and who carries her neck well." She scored 78-84-81 at the Central Inspection.

Two-year-old mares

The two-year-old mares championship class, offered by Onori, was won by the very best and with a lot of technique trotting Owandra (Kordaat out of Uwandra keur pref by Fabricius) bred by Gebr. den Otter of Bruchem. Odessa K (Dylano out of Scodessa keur pref sport of Nando), bred and owned by Egbert Kruiswijk from Loenen aan de Vecht, came in second place. The third place was for Oreda (Atleet out of Fureda elite by Unieko), bred and owned by Erik and Sander Daniëls.

Extra section four-year-old ster mares

This year there was an extra category for four-year-old ster mares. This class was sponsored by Knegt. The championship title went to the extra performing Miantha H (Cizandro out of Biantha V elite pref by Manno), bred and owned by Gerrie Hermanussen from Beers. Subsequently, Miss Jerina YBP (Hertog Jan out of Viva Jerina elite pref by Marvel), bred by Dinie Markhorst from Brucht and owned by Black Horse BV became reserve champion. A great success for the Young Breeders (YPB stands for Young Breeders Program), because the choice of stallion was determined by them, together with breeder Dinie Markhorst. It turned out well, it was 'their' first National mare. Place three went to Miss Ceronia VS (Atleet out of Ceronia elite by Victory), bred

by Wim Veneklaas Slots from Zijerveld and owned by ME de Wild of Geffen, who had already won her class that morning in harness.

Keur & Elite mares and foals

Thirteen outstanding keur/elite mares presented themselves in the next class. Champion in this class, that was sponsored by Catering Culinair, was the exceptionally spectacular showing Lendoline (Eebert out of Gwendoline ster pref by Manno), bred by Wim Cazemier from Indiana and owned by Wout Liezen. She beat all the others with ease and scored 180 points. The second placed mare Jara (Cizandro out of Trijnie ster by Manno), bred by f. C.J.M. Boots from Spanbroek and ridden by Johan Kramer, scored 163 points. With 161 points, Lidia (Cizandro out of Zilvia keur by Ranno), bred by Henk Reurink from 't Harde and owned by the Pos family, won third place.

The foal section, awarded with the Virbac Foal Cup, was won by the colt Ruwaldo (Atleet out of Juwalda ster by Cizandro), bred and owned by F. Raaymakers from Nistelrode. He was a strong champion. Relatief (Idol out of Kureda keur by Unieko), bred and owned by Erik and Sander Daniëls from Wageningen, came in second. The third place was for Ravensgoed W (Dylano out of Indinita elite by Eebert), bred and owned by Joop van Wessel from Zwartebroek.

3-year-old Harness horse mares

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Nalanita	Eebert out of Caunita Ster Preferent PROK by Stuurboord	J.W. van Wessel
2	Niantha	Cizandro out of Fijjantha ster by Larix	J.P.C. Ermens
3	Nikita	Icellie out of Juliaa by Stuurboord	J.R. Bosch

4-year-old Harness horse mares

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Miantha H	Cizandro out of Biantha V Elite Preferent PROK by Manno	G. Hermanussen
2	Miss Jerina YBP	Hertog Jan out of Viva Jerina Elite Preferent PROK by Marvel	G.J.H. Markhorst- vd Velde/ Black Horses B.V.
3	Miss Cerona VS	Atleet out of Cerona Elite PROK by Victory	M.E. de Wild

Keur & Elite Harness horse mares

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Lendoline Elite Ibop (harness) PROK	Eebert out of Gwendoline Ster Preferent PROK by Manno	W.G. Cazemier/ W. Liezen
2	Jara Keur Ibop (harness)	Cizandro out of Trijnie Ster by Manno	C.J.M. Boots/ J. Kramer
3	Lidia Keur Ibop (harness)	Cizandro out of Zilvia Keur by Ranno	Henk Reurink/ H. Pos

Harness horse foals

Placing	Name	Breeding	Breeder/ Owner
Champion	Ruwaldo	Atleet out of Juwalda ster by Cizandro	F. Raaymakers
2	Relatief	Idol out of Kureda Keur Ibop (harness) by Unieko	E. Daniels & S. Daniels
3	Ravensgoed W	Dylano out of Indinita Elite Ibop (harness) PROK by Eebert	J.W. van Wessel