

Ustinov

From Selection Champion to Keur Stallion

Paul Hendrix:
“I’ve seen a lot of horses free-jump throughout my life but never one that free-jumped like Ustinov!”

Exactly 11 years after Ustinov was crowned the champion of the stallion selection, the Libero H son received the keur predicate at this year’s KWPN Stallion Show in ‘s-Hertogenbosch. Bred by the late Gert van der Veen, Ustinov has proven to pass on his acclaimed jumping talent to his offspring.

TEXT: JENNEKE SMIT • PHOTOS: DIRK CAREMANS, ET AL

When Ustinov was declared the champion of the 2004 KWPN stallion selection, breeders could only hope that he would pass on his superb qualities to his offspring. Now in 2015, we can definitively say that the dark bay Libero H son has fulfilled their hope. Ustinov owes his keur predicate to the high percentage of his offspring which compete at the 1.30m level or higher.

One of a Kind

Ustinov is out of the keur preferent prestatie mare Haifa (s.Nimmerdor), a full-sister to the KWPN-approved stallion Glendale. Haifa garnered national acclaim by winning reserve champion in the keur mare division at the National Mare Show and for producing the KWPN-approved stallion Nijinski (s.Libero H), who was subsequently sold as a hunter to a buyer from America.

As a foal, Ustinov went under the hammer at the Maren-Kessel foal auction, where he was purchased by siblings Robert and Nanja Smits. Two years later, they made their debut at the stallion selection with Ustinov in hand. In the first round viewing, Ustinov showcased his great talent in the free-jumping evaluation, attracting the interest of leading horsemen like Paul Hendrix and Hans Horn. “The way Ustinov jumped at the stallion selection was freakish. That horse just stayed on your mind. He showed amazingly well and collected in the air beauti-

fully every time,” recalls Paul Hendrix. “I was sitting with Hans Horn and his son Daan in the stands. I’ve been good friends with Hans for about 30 years, and we immediately said to each other that we shouldn’t let this horse slip past us. And that was right because I’ve seen a lot of horses free-jump throughout my life but never one that free-jumped like Ustinov, even 11 years later! Fortunately, we were able to buy Ustinov, and Daan drafted a contract on the spot.”

Talent

The faith that Hendrix and Horn had in the Libero H son soon translated into tangible achievements. In 2004, Ustinov was declared the champion of the stallion selection; and in the fall of that year, he successfully completed the performance test. His report describes him as “a playful, reliable stallion that is very willing to work. The canter is big with push and balance, in which the stallion can collect well.” Even back then, Ustinov jumped with “abundant push, quick reflexes, and abundant body use and bascule.” He also made a very good impression with his carefulness, scope, and talent. For the canter and the jumping components of his test (push, form, scope, and talent), he scored all 8.5’s. On the other hand, he received a 5.5 for the walk and a 5 for dressage talent, which underscores the benefit of specialized breeding. After his approval, Ustinov was carefully trained for the sport. In 2009, Caroline Müller competed him in the 1.50m at the CSI4* in Münster. That



achievement was unfortunately followed by an injury and a long rehab; however, the stallion did not return to his previous level of performance. In 2012, he competed at the 1.45m level. “Ustinov is a horse that definitely doesn’t spare himself. He gave too much of himself and, as a result, his sport career was somewhat on the short side. He hurls himself with his power and is incredibly hard on himself. In hindsight, we can say that his talent and toughness were a hindrance to him,” asserts Hendrix. Although he shares registration of the stallion with Daan Horn, Ustinov has been stationed at the Horn family’s Stoeterij De Wiemselbach since his purchase.

Mare Maker

Ustinov has become increasingly popular as a breeding stallion. For years, he has ranked high in the indexes, currently boasting a far-above average jumping index of 153 (with 91% reliability). “Ustinov is now proving himself through his offspring. The qualities we saw in him are also ones that he fortunately passes on to his offspring, which have a good temperament, great willingness, and an incredibly good canter. You rarely come across

The remarkable Ustinov is an asset to jumper breeding. As a result, he was awarded the keur predicate this year.

Paul Hendrix:
“Ustinov passes on great willingness and jumping talent and, almost without exception, a good canter.”

a Ustinov that doesn’t have a good canter. However, even though he’s bold and bursting with energy, he can use a modern mare with some ‘blood.’ That’s something we misjudged in the beginning. Of course, he certainly has classic bloodlines, which quickly trace back to an old line. He’s best paired with a somewhat large mare with ‘blood,’” asserts Hendrix. The keur predicate is a deserving reward for Ustinov. Hendrix: “We heard the good news several weeks before the stallion selection. His offspring are excelling in the sport and ability tests, which for years has also translated into a good jumping index. Personally, I think he can also do a lot of good things as a sire of dams. We currently have several young horses out of mares by Ustinov and, in that way, I think he can also make a difference. He seems to be a ‘mare maker’.”

Sporhorses

The Ustinov daughter Anatevka keur IBOP-jump sport-jump (out of Uptown Girl ster s.Pierrot, breeder: Stal Hendrix of Baarlo), who is one of the few offspring the stallion sired before his approval, scored 85 points for free-jumping at

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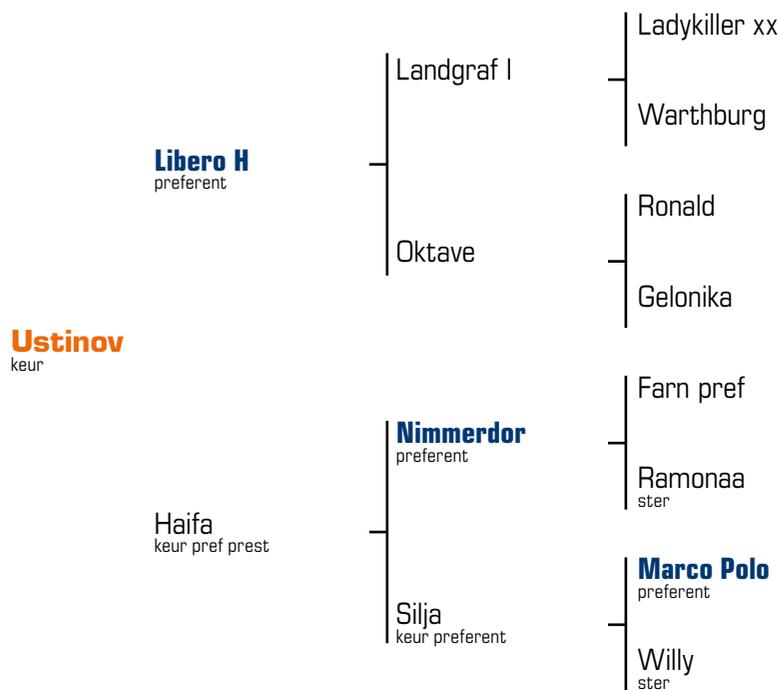


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the Studbook inspection as a three-year-old. At the National Championships in Ermelo, Anatevka placed sixth in free-jumping. Next, the keur mare proved herself under saddle with achievements including placing fifth in the Dutch Sporthorse Traders Final and posting an outstanding score of 83 points in the IBOP. Since then, she has excelled with other riders in the sport and is currently competing successfully under young rider Niels Knappe. Last December, Anatevka helped Knappe win his first

Grand Prix (1.45m), which was held at the CSI2* in Roosendaal. The mare has achieved more good international results at the 1.45m level. Another remarkable Ustinov daughter is Bestinov keur IBOP-jump sport-jump (out of Sarah Jane stb s.Indorado), who is from Ustinov's first year at stud. As a three-year-old, Bestinov was rewarded with 85 points for her free-jumping talent; and in early 2010, she scored 81 points in the IBOP. After winning the VION Cup in 2011 as a five-year-old, she fetched a top price of €290,000 at the Dutch Sport Horse Sales auction. Currently, the talented mare is competing internationally at the 1.40m level under Italy's André Sakakini. Another talented horse from Ustinov's first year at stud is Backstory (stb.name Brennero, out of



Ustinov is the last KWPN-approved son by the legendary World Cup winner Libero H. He, like his son, was known for his willingness, canter, and reflexes.

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JACOB MELISSEN

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JACOB MELISSEN

STALLIONS

Urijke s.Amulet), formerly ridden by Jennifer Rossire and now excelling under Darragh Kerins. Early this year, the combination was placed at the 1.50m level in Florida. Ustinov's son Abarlo T (ds.Concorde) is yet another successful show jumper, competing at the 1.40m level under Isabelle Gerfer. Other Ustinov offspring showing at the 1.40m level include Barola (ds.Zeus), Cisco's Chateau (ds.Andiamo Z), and Carli de Sabette (ds.Voltaire). At the 1.45m level, Barichello (ds.Legaat) is enjoying success under Filippo Baldani.

Complete Horses

A remarkable number of Ustinov offspring compete in the sport at the 1.30m level or higher. In addition, Ustinov offspring garner acclaim in the mare inspections and ability tests. An example of such offspring is the National Mare Inspection horse Georgia (out of Natasja elite pref prest s.Bachus, breeder: Nico Krol of Handel), who scored 84.5 points in the

IBOP. Similarly, the Ustinov daughter Ewinita (out of Winita prok s.Placido) excelled in the mare test, scoring 83 points. Another such example is Findy-Co (out of Abbyco elite EPTM-jump s.Odermus R), who passed the EPTM test with 81 points. Furthermore, Ustinov has produced inspection champions. Among them is Coco Donja (out of Prima Donja keur s.Burggraaf), who was declared the overall champion in the jumping breeding direction at the 2010 Central Inspection in Sevenum, Limburg.

Uniform Offspring

With his strong bloodlines and acclaimed qualities, expectations for Ustinov as a breeding stallion were high at the time of his approval. Today we can say that the stallion has put his stamp on the breeding industry by producing uniform offspring. In the sport, these offspring are proving that the former high-flyer Ustinov is now a world-class sire. ●

1. Under Niels Knappe, the very careful Ustinov daughter Anatevka won the Grand Prix at CSI2* Roosendaal in late December. Her prior achievements include scoring 83 points in the IBOP.

2. As a five-year-old, the Ustinov daughter Bestinov won the VION Cup under Pieter Keunen. Currently, she competes internationally under Andre Sakakini at the 1.40m level.

3. Ustinov daughters excel in the ability tests. Pictured here is Findy-Co, who scored 81 points in the mare test.

4. The Ustinov daughter Ewinita impressed in the mare test, passing with a good score of 83 points.

		USTINOV					
		LIBERO H x NIMMERDOR					
Genetic profile		reliability:	••	•	average	•	••
Jumping	low	91%			153		high
Conformation	low	86%			111		high
Loose movement	low	86%			106		high
Free jumping	low	88%			113		high
OC-health	low				n.v.t.		high
Height	large	86%			95		large

USTINOV'S SIRE STATISTICS

Ustinov has a high jumping index of 153 with 91% reliability. He also boasts above average scores for passing on his conformation (111), movement (106), and free-jumping ability (113). Clearly, the stallion passes on jumping talent, which begins with the canter. Ustinov offspring score remarkably high in the canter, which has abundant scope (87) and push (85), with excellent balance (82). The stallion's offspring also show good push over obstacles, clearly jumping with elevation (89) and quick reflexes (94). They jump also with a tucked front leg (90), rounded back (87), open hindquarters (89), abundant scope (91), abundant elasticity (87), and a great measure of carefulness (92). Ustinov's full genetic report is available online in the KWPN Stallion Database.