

Notable Dressage Stallions of the U-Year

The KWPN has approved nine dressage stallions that were born in 2001. Most of these demonstrate exceptional quality, whether competing at the national level or siring offspring. Their performance means that they are meeting the expectations placed on them as three-year-olds at the performance test. For instance, the Small Tour stallions United (s.Krack C) and Uphill (s.Oscar) have already made their mark on modern dressage horse breeding, and five of the nine U-year stallions already have one or more KWPN-approved sons.



Since age three, Uphill (s.Oscar) has been one of the U-year eye-catchers. He has achieved one success after the other in both sport and breeding.

At the time the stallions of 2001 were selected, the KWPN had not yet implemented specialization into its selection system. However, a clear delineation in breeding was in place several years later, allowing stallions like Ukato, Ustinov, and Untouchable to be called jumper sires; and UB40, United, and Uphill to be labeled

dressage sires. The more targeted selection of stallions within the breeding directions in subsequent years is a logical consequence of new developments in breeding science.

A Good Start

In 2004, the stallion selection committee

consisted of judging chairman Arie Hamoen, Pieter Kersten, and Frenk Jaspers. Hamoen reflects on his first year of judging with satisfaction: "We had a really good feeling about the U-year stallions from the start. I'll never forget that we decided to hold the exam for the spring performance test outdoors because the

Van Uytert on United: “He moves exceptionally well.”

The Krack C-son United is a favorite of stallion keeper Joop van Uytert. He purchased a 50% share in the stallion as a two-year-old from Ronald Heesakkers, who had United's dam Nessica. Heesakkers bred the mare to Krack C and sold her in-foal to Joop Verputten of Rosmalen, who is registered as United's breeder. “When we looked at United as a two-year-old, I was thrilled with him immediately. He moved exceptionally well, and his movement was exactly what we like to see,” Van Uytert asserts enthusiastically. “From the first start, I was totally convinced of his movement, and I've always had a lot of faith in it. He was really an interesting stallion to prepare for the selection. He had a youthful look, and although he perhaps should be more long-lined, he has always moved like the best.”

At age four, United was sent to Edward Gal, who immediately achieved success in the show ring with the talented stallion. In 2007, the pair placed sixth in the six-year-old division at the World Championships in Verden. “He was successful in the Small Tour, and he should move up to Intermédiaire II soon. In principle, he already knows the entire Grand Prix, so that's the goal. He has a very good piaffe-passage tour, so we expect he'll do fine, but that's no news,” laughs Van Uytert. This year the stallion, who has since been approved by several studbooks based on his performance and those of his offspring, was declared elite by the Belgian Warmblood Studbook. As a result, he is the first dressage stallion in Belgium to have achieved this status.

stallions had been so rideable and obedient the entire test. Although we like to show those good traits to breeders, with all the spectators around, things didn't go so well at the exam. The stallions were pretty overwhelmed by everything, and of course, we couldn't blame them.” All the stallions passed with an 8 or higher for talent as a dressage horse, and eight of the nine stallions were approved as three-year-olds. Broere Ufo (s.Métall) was approved as a six-year-old.

Top Scoring Stallion

United (Krack C out of Nessica ster prok s. Partout, breeder: J. Verputten of Rosmalen) earned the most points in the spring



With several approved sons and champion offspring, United (s.Krack C) is doing very well. He also consistently excels in the sport.

performance test. With 9.5's for the trot, canter, and talent as a dressage horse, he clearly set himself apart from his peers. Like Krack C, TCN Partout, Sultan, and Amor, United has very consistent dressage breeding. “United was really a stallion that the riders praised. He was very rideable and trainable in the performance test and was noted for his desire to move, rittigheid, and very nice temperament. We wished he was more long-lined, but fortunately, that's not an issue with his offspring,” explains Hamoen. Edward Gal, who has been the stallion's rider since 2005, rode United to second place as a five-year-old in the L-class of the Stallion Competition final. At age eight, the stallion made his Prix St. Georges debut with a score of more than 70%, and this year, the combination added the VHO trophy in the Small Tour to their list of achievements. Soon United will compete in Intermédiaire II (see sidebar). As a sire, United has already produced extraordinary champions, such as his son Bordeaux (ds.Gribaldi), the champion of the Stallion Show 2009; his daughter Brooklyn (ds.Havidoff), the champion of the National Mare Inspection; and his son TC Athene (ds.Jazz), the winner of the Pavo Cup for four-year-olds in 2009. In addition, United's son Bellagio won the championship for three-year-olds at the 2009 Swedish Championship for Young Dressage Horses. Bellagio (ds.Esteban) also advanced to the KWPVN's third round viewing for stallions. Bordeaux and Arma-

ni (ds.Jazz) are United's two KWPVN-approved sons.

Champion Stallion

Uptown (Kennedy out of Carina elite preformant sport-(dres) s.Ubis, breeder: A.L. Jurrius of Landhorst), the champion of Den Bosch, passed the fall performance test with the most points, including a 9 for talent as a dressage horse. The stallion has excellent conformation. Hamoen: “Uptown impressed us with his type; and with respect to blood distribution, we also had good reason to approve him. The influence of Jazz and Flemmingh was already evident back then, and Uptown doesn't have blood from either of those stallions. Uptown is also out of a very good dam, Carina. She has excelled in the inspections and proven herself in breeding. Uptown was nicely trainable in the performance test, and he has very good self-carriage: his canter is very balanced, and he can collect well in the gait.” At age four, Uptown convincingly captured the Pavo Cup under Hans-Peter Minderhoud and, in the winter season, he won the L-class in the Stallion Competition. In 2006, he won the title Future Stallion in Zwolle and finished Reserve Champion in the Pavo Cup. As a five-year-old, he competed in the World Championships in Verden, where he finished commendably in fifth place. This year, Uptown stood at stud at Zuchthof Klatte in Lastrup, Germany. His oldest offspring are four-years-old.



JM

The stallion UB40 (s.Olivi), who was exported to the U.S., attracted attention at a young age for his good movement, a trait which he passes on to his offspring.



JM

The Stallion Show Champion Uptown (s.Kennedy) achieved great success as a young horse. He is expected to return to the sport soon.

Among them is the KWPN-approved stallion Bojengel (ds.Gribaldi), and Uptown already has a selected son from the C-year named Calm Pleasure (ds.Jazz). Uptown's co-owner, Toine Hoefs, expects the stallion to return to the sport. Hoefs: "He's had a few different riders, and in principle, he's ready for the Small Tour. Marjolijn Hart had been training Uptown and was doing well with him, but he was injured in the barn and had to be laid-up for a while. That's when Klatter stallion station expressed interest in him, so we sent him to Germany. Although he gets

ridden there, we still haven't made any concrete agreements about showing him, but we certainly intend for Uptown to get back in the show ring. He learns everything very easily, and he has a lot of talent for the piaffe and passage, he even does the one-tempi's already. He's made a very good impression at the stallion shows in Germany, and German interest in our Dutch stallions keeps growing!"

Two Olivis

Another noteworthy stallion in the performance test was the Olivi-son UB40 (out of

Van Norel: Always Confident in Uphill

One eye-catcher of the U-year is the Oscar-son Uphill. Stallion keeper Gert-Willem van Norel bred him out of Naomi Cerroon ster preferent (s.Apollonios xx). "He was a remarkable foal from the start. He had a lot of movement and elasticity. Besides that, he was a very intelligent foal, a quality I like," explains Van Norel. "We prepared him with complete confidence for the stallion selection, where he was selected for the performance test. He did very well in the test and convinced the committee of his quality. The final performance of the test was held outdoors, and I recall that Uphill led the group to the outdoor arena. Everything was unsettled, but Uphill already showed his good temperament then, and I liked that. His offspring also have that good temperament. It's too early to really celebrate his offspring because they're still too young to perform at a high level, but I have a lot of confidence in them. They're easy and intelligent horses that like to work. I can't stand lazy people, and I can't stand horses that don't like to work, so I cherish Uphill's willingness and that of his offspring! I would even let the Queen ride these kinds of horses, and I'm rather patriotic, so that says a lot. I even dare to say that Uphills do well in other disciplines, like eventing and driving. Most can jump well, and they have a lot of drive." The stallion, who has already excelled in the sport, competes in the Small Tour under Christa Laarakkers.

Kilucienne keur sport-(dres) s.Michelangelo, breeder: A.J. van Os of Sprang-Capelle), who passed with an 8.5 for talent as a dressage horse. Hamoen: "UB40 wasn't the biggest stallion of his year, but he always used his legs correctly. Last spring, I saw him in America, where he's doing well in the sport. I had hoped he would've grown a little more, but he hasn't lost any of his movement."

The outstanding chestnut stallion UB40 fetched the highest bid at the fourth annual KWPN Select Sale. He was purchased by Stal Zegwaard for €145,000, after placing third that day in the Champion Selection. After receiving a glowing foal report, UB40 was exported in 2005 to Iron Spring Farm in the US, where he is used for both sport and breeding. In 2006, he won the DG Bar Cup, and a year later, the KWPN-NA deemed him the top six-year-

old in the nation. In 2009, he showed successfully in 4th level (comparable with Dutch ZZ-light), and this year, his wins under Alex Robertson include the Prix St. Georges classes at Dressage at Blue Goose and Dressage at the Park, in the middle of breeding season.

Offspring from UB40's first year at stud include the eye-catcher Apache (ds.Krack C), who was the reserve champion in Den Bosch and was subsequently registered in the studbook with good scores. In addition, several UB40 daughters have excelled in the IBOP, such as Black Beauty L (ds. Ferro) who passed with 81.5 points.

Another approved Olivi son from the U-year is Universeel (out of Igata ster s. Zuidhorn, breeder: G.A. Post of Middelbert). He, like his half-brother UB40, also earned an 8.5 for talent as a dressage horse. Hamoen: "Universeel is a stallion with good conformation out of an interesting dam-line, and Olivi already produced good offspring at that time. Universeel was selected for the performance test by way of retesting. He did well in Ermelo, and although we would've liked him to move more uphill overall, we wanted to give him a chance to breed."

The gray stallion competes at ZZ-light level under Bart Bax and will soon move up to ZZ-advanced. According to his registered party/breeder Gerardus Post, "The stallion does well in the sport but hasn't yet attracted a lot of mares. His color certainly has something to do with that. We're taking our time training him for the sport, and we have a lot of faith in him."

Universeel was approved in the fall of 2004, and his oldest offspring are four years old. Among his oldest offspring is the remarkable mare B.Kerose (ds.Zeoliet), who finished first this year among the four- to seven-year-old dressage mares at the Tolbert Central Inspection. Prior to that, B.Kerose had scored 78.5 points in the IBOP.

Uphill

Two Oscar sons participated in the 2004 fall performance test, one of which was approved: Uphill (out of Naomi Ceroon ster s.Apollonios xx, breeder: G.W. van Norel of Wapenveld). For talent as a dressage horse, he scored an 8. "He had good bloodlines, and we really liked Uphill from the start. He impressed us with his suppleness, desire to work, and willing dispositi-



The Polansky son Upper-Class is performing well in the ZZ-light.



Universeel (s.Olivi) is very consistent in the ZZ-light and is now training to move up to the ZZ-advanced.

on. Although we had selected two Oscar-sons, we weren't biased toward either at the time, but in the performance test, the differences between the two stallions became clear. Certainly with respect to trainability, Uphill really impressed us." The other Oscar-son was subsequently approved by the NRPS under the name Olympic (ds.Rossini). With Lotje Schoots, he is qualified at ZZ-light level. As for Uphill, he boasts an impressive list of achievements as a sport horse under Emmelie Scholtens, including finishing as Pavo Cup Reserve Champion in the four-year-old division, winning the Stallion Competition M-class, capturing the Dutch

Championship in the ZZ-light and ZZ-advanced, and securing several wins in the Small Tour. Currently, the stallion's rider is Christa Laarakkers, who is excelling with him in the Small Tour (see sidebar). Uphill has already made his mark as a breeding stallion. His sons Briljant (ds. Darlington) and Carlton Hill (ds.Vincent) are KWPN-approved, and his remarkable son Aston Martin NL competed in the World Championships in Verden. Furthermore, many Uphill-daughters have scored high in the inspections and the ability tests. For instance, Amber (ds.Cabochoch) and Adina (ds.Kennedy) finished second and fourth, respectively, at the National

Mare Inspection; and Agaath (ds. Rubenstein I) scored 84 points in the IBOP, while Amber earned 83.5 points in the test; and this year, Chi (ds.Cabochon) placed third in the National Mare Inspection.

Sport First

Other stallions that successfully completed the performance test are Undigo (Sandro Hit out of Norell keur s.Jazz, breeder: A. van Steenberghe of Berlicum) and Upper-Class (Polansky out of Dolienaster prest s.Doruto, breeder: D. Beker-Heuff of Erichem). Both passed with an 8.5 for talent as a dressage horse. Hamoen: "Undigo was a stallion with a lot of suspension, and he used his legs very correctly. Although his temperament was a point of discussion, we decided to give him a chance. Upper-Class was a Polansky son, who was still young at the time and a lot of sport horses come out of his dam-line. Although we liked his size and good hind leg, we would have preferred a bit more knee action."

Undigo's first approved son is Aqiedo (ds. Métall). However, he was sold to Leida Collins-Strijk, who use him as a sport horse. His peer Upper-Class, who is stabled with Remi Kulik, competes successfully in the ZZ-light. The stallion received a good offspring report, and his oldest offspring are now four years old. Finally, Ungaro (Ronaldo out of Pallas Athena-Z keur s.Pion, breeder: M.R. Stas-

Kirsten Beckers: "Ufo doesn't have any weaknesses."

Kirsten Beckers, who rides for Stoeterij Broere, is Broere Ufo's (s.Métall) regular rider. She is enthusiastic about the stallion's future. "His greatest strength is that he really doesn't have any weaknesses. He has a great temperament and lots of talent for the difficult movements. The last time I showed him we competed in the ZZ-light, but I want to move up to the Small Tour this winter. He learns everything easily and already shows a good piaffe and passage. Where that's concerned, I have a lot of faith in him, and I hope to get him to the Grand Prix. That's definitely an achievable goal, if he stays healthy," explains Beckers.

To date, the stallion has not bred many mares. "It's difficult to get breedings for a stallion that was approved at a later age. He bred twelve mares his first year; after that, he didn't breed for a year; and this year, he hasn't covered many mares. It's a shame because he has a good offspring report, and we have a lot of faith in him -also as a breeding stallion. One or more of his sons will probably go to the first round viewing this year. Hopefully, then more breeders will be convinced of his talent! In any case, I'm very happy to ride such a talented horse," concludes Beckers.

sen of Venlo) was approved by the KWPN as a three-year-old. He scored an 8 for talent. Hamoen: "A large stallion out of a classic dam-line. We gave him a chance because of his bloodlines. He did well in the performance test, and we gave him all 8's for his dressage scores." Several of his daughters have earned the ster predicate, but he has few offspring. Due to lack of interest by breeders, he was gelded and sold as a sport horse.

Six-Year-Old

Broere Ufo (Métall out of Jufeera ster s. El Corona, breeder: J. Timmerman of Moordrecht) received KWPN-approval at age six, after being selected as a three-

year-old. In 2007, he passed the performance test with an 8 for talent. Hamoen explains: "He wasn't ready for the performance test as a three-year-old. At the KWPN, stallions are always welcome to return when they're more mature, which was a good option for Ufo. As a six-year-old, he convinced us with his very willing temperament, desire to move, and ability to collect." His rider Kirsten Beckers is also very enthusiastic about Ufo's talent, and she believes he is capable of the Grand Prix movements (see sidebar). He is one of the outstanding performance stallions in the sport that makes the U-year so special.



Broere Ufo (s.Métall) received KWPN approval at age six and shows ample talent for the difficult movements. He will soon show in the Small Tour.



Aqiedo is an approved Undigo (s.Sandro Hit) son from the stallion's first year at stud.