

RETIREMENT

CH Callaway's Annabel Allison

Editor's Note: The following text was read by announcer Peter Fenton Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at the World's Championship Horse Show.



CH Annabel Allison won the Five-Gaited World's Grand Championship in 2013 and last year tied the record of CH My My by winning the Five-Gaited Mare Stake for the sixth time.

We welcome to the ring tonight for her final show ring appearance world's grand champion CH Callaway's Annabel Allison and owner/trainer/rider Debbie Foley, her lifelong partner and the only person ever to ride or show her.

In their seven-year career this pair made 55 show ring appearances and took away 41 blues and eight reserves. Together they have won six world's championship five-gaited mare titles, four national championships, two Ladies Five-Gaited World's Championships, Two Reserve World's Grand Championships and the Five-Gaited World's Grand Championship in 2013.

This tough little mare has been a project from the very beginning and members of the dedicated team that have worked patiently with her are gathered in center ring tonight. Everyone has put in a lot of hard work. Annabel Allison was bred by the legendary Callaway

Hills Stable and foaled there in February 2004, sired by CH Caramac and out of Callaway's Love Lucy.

In September 2006 on a trip to look at colts at Callaway Hills, the mare caught Debbie's eye; she was turned loose in the bullpen with a very long catch rope on. Debbie made the deal to buy the mare if they could get her on a truck to Kentucky. Upon arrival at Silver Brook the next task was getting her off the truck, and for the next two weeks there was the job of trying to catch her in the stall. She became "Ricketta" nicknamed after Ricky Ricardo, her full brother that Debbie had made.

Ricketta has always thrown challenges to the humans around her. She was so tough that Debbie never got her to the show ring until she was a five-year-old. And even that debut in 2009 was not trouble free. She was reserve in the Denver

Junior class at Asheville after trying to jump the fence. She won the novice class at Midwest and then the gaited stake at Shelby County Fair, again after attempting to jump the fence. But Debbie persevered. She had it in her mind that this could be the one to fulfill her lifelong dream of winning the Five-Gaited Grand Championship in Freedom Hall, and that gamble paid off.

Once she learned to stay inside the ring, Ricketta went on that year to take the Ladies division by storm, winning both classes at Blue Ridge and both ladies classes in Freedom Hall. She was quite the talk of the show that year.

In 2010 they moved on to the open division. Debbie and Ricketta swept the mare classes and stakes at Asheville, Midwest, Blue Ridge and the American Royal. She won her first mare stake at Louisville as well as the reserve World's Grand Championship.

2011 saw another sweep of mare titles and stakes at Asheville and Midwest and another win in the mare stake at Louisville.

But once again, this special mare challenged her humans to do their best. The week after Louisville, she was in the clinic with a potentially career ending illness. The prognosis for a return the show ring was poor, but the diligent care of veterinarian Bill Hemminger and her devoted owner allowed her to beat the odds.

Her return to the ring in 2012 mirrored her previous sweeps; winning mare classes and stakes at Asheville, Midwest and the American Royal and adding the third of six mare titles and her second reserve World's Grand Championship to her list of honors.

Finally, it was in 2013 that Debbie and Ricketta achieved Debbie's dream. In that big year they racked up wins at Asheville and Midwest as well as the mare stake and the National Championship at the American Royal. But the highlight of that year was a fourth win in the mare class and that long-awaited crowning as the World's Grand Champion here on the green shavings.

But Ricketta and Debbie were not finished. In 2014 they notched wins at Asheville and Midwest before winning the mare stake again at Louisville again and the mare class and stake at the American Royal.

And then one year ago tonight, Debbie and Ricketta tied the record of the great My My by winning the mare class for the sixth consecutive time. She went on to close out last year with her fifth



win in the mare stake at the American Royal and a reserve in the national championship.

Ricketta has done it all in fine style, always maintaining her quirky personality. As a result of her 2011 illness Ricketta has to be out of her stall twice a day every day for at least 20 minutes, once working and once walking. So every day, every Sunday, every holiday for the last five years her partner Debbie has been there for her twice-a-day walks no matter what else was going on. For her part, Ricketta often shows her appreciation by trying to bite or kick her devoted owner, trainer and rider.

Over the years there have been many offers to buy this mare but she was not for sale for any price. Ricketta had made Debbie's dream come true and she has vowed to take care of the mare the rest of her life.

CH Callaway's Annabel Allison has earned her place in history. She has tied My My's record for six consecutive wins in the mare stake. And she is one of only three horses since Wing Commander to leave the World's Championship Horse show with at least one blue ribbon every time she set foot on the grounds.

She is one of the truly great mares of our breed, and it has taken a village to support her in her success. She is joined tonight in center ring by the skilled team that has made it all possible.

In addition to the dedication and skill of Debbie Foley, Ricketta owes her success to veterinarian Bill Hemminger. Never one to be easy Ricketta has been enthusiastic about challenging her farriers. Bud Willimon, Mike Waddle and Jeremy Wells have exercised great patience and share responsibility for her success. So too have longtime caretaker Alex Carillo and assistant trainer Tracy James Rossouw. None of this would have happened without the patience of all of these team members whose dedication to this tough little mare has made all the difference.

Tony Weldon joins us tonight in honor of this grand product of her great breeding program. Also sharing the moment is Lee Shipman. Although Lee never worked with this mare Debbie has said that without what Lee taught her about a gaited horse when she worked for him, none of Ricketta's achievements would have happened.

You have not heard the last of Callaway's Annabel Allison. Leslie Bennett always said she didn't need to know when Ricketta was coming down the ramp because she could hear her trademark freight train snort at every step. The next time Leslie hears that sound, it might be one of Ricketta's offspring. She will be bred in the spring and we look for her foals to carry on her legacy.

So tonight we say farewell but not goodbye to one of the great five-gaited mares of our breed World's Grand Champion CH Callaway's Annabel Allison.



No one has ever shown Ricketta (named after her brother Ricky Ricardo) but owner and trainer Debbie Foley.



Debbie Foley thanked the entire team who helped her with Annabel including legendary trainer Lee Shipman.



Ceil Wheeler brought Ricketta a well-deserved wreath of peppermints at the reception held at Silver Brook Stables Tuesday evening after the show.