

Putting the SHOW in Show Horse

CH I'm McDreamy

by Bob Funkhouser

"We trimmed him the morning I showed him at Louisville and won the three-year-old class. We were going down the chute and I've never had a horse put his neck back in my face like he did. That's something I'll never forget," said Kim Cowart who piloted the recently deceased CH I'm McDreamy to the first of many world's titles.

It was Cowart who fell in love with the son of Supreme Heir and Gettin' Fancy (BHF) while judging the Midwest Charity where Tom Thorpe piloted him to win the UPHA Park Pleasure Classic in his performance debut.

"He came through the gate and was amazing," remembered Cowart. "Tom [Thorpe] is such a beautiful rider anyway and I knew by looking at him [McDreamy] that he had to be by Supreme Heir and I loved him as a breeding horse. I bought him for Lindy Ware right after the show. When we got him home Lindy asked me, 'What are we going to do with him?' I told her, 'I'm going to win the three-year-old walk-trot stake at Louisville.' And we did.

"He is one of my all-time favorites. I took care of him myself and he was such a clown in the stall."

The personality and athletic ability of McDreamy made him a favorite of everyone who was ever around him, beginning with his breeder, Toni Nastali.

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all-time favorites."*

"McDreamy was the first foal Gettin' Fancy had," said Nastali. "Bob Griffin of Northern Tradition Farm suggested the Supreme Heir cross. The mare I was trying to breed wouldn't settle so we took Gettin' Fancy (Fannie) out of training and bred her.

"She was just four-years-old when she had McDreamy at a facility down the street from Northern Tradition. Bob and Tom [Thorpe] handled the delivery personally at this satellite facility. I was just a customer who listened to their advice and followed the program they suggested. They are responsible for him. I will say, my heart would swell every time I saw him in the ring. How blessed am I?"



Tom Thorpe knew CH I'm McDreamy was going to be special from the beginning. Thorpe brought McDreamy out as a three-year-old in 2007 winning first at Great River. In his second performance at Midwest Charity, McDreamy won the UPHA Park Pleasure Classic and caught the eye of Judge Kim Cowart.

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"McDreamy, he was special from the beginning. I 'hand-delivered' him," added Tom Thorpe. "We had a unique bond from that moment on. He loved his job and was wonderful to train. He craved attention and LOVED the show ring.

"We took our time with him and let him tell us when he was ready – and he was right! He hit the show ring and never looked back. We were sad to see him leave Northern Tradition Farm, but we knew he was meant for greatness. We were so proud to be a part of his illustrious career. He will always hold a special place in my heart."

From Northern Tradition Farm to West Wind Stables, the Cowarts had two extremely successful years with the cocky colt trimmed in white before selling him to the Steven Chancellor family for daughter Hunter's equitation horse.

"We went head to head with McDreamy all year long when I was showing CH A Travelin' Man

for a couple of years and would win every time except in the championship at Louisville when they stripped. Mr. Chancellor got tired of him not being able to win that championship so we moved him to park and he won the championship in that division.

"We started tinkering with him for equitation after that and Macey [Miles] showed him for the first time and won the 14-year-old class at Louisville. The Keglowsch family bought him for Malika after that.

"It's funny, that horse used his ears okay when we showed him performance but after I started equitating him and we just left him alone, he got much brighter. That sucker wouldn't put an ear back. I've always said that if a horse is not relaxed he most likely isn't going to use his ears.

"He was such a great horse to have. Equitating him was a challenge but he was very, very smart. He was so athletic, front and back

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as a junior horse and we beat him both times at Louisville," said Todd Miles who trained McDreamy for the Chancellors. "We loved him and bought him at Louisville thinking we would equitate him for Hunter. We were going to go to Kansas City that fall and I thought it would be a good gesture for Kim [Cowart] to show him there, she knew him better than we did. She did a great job with him and won. Johnny Jones was one of the judges and he called for an extra trot. Someone asked him why he did that as McDreamy was winning the class outstandingly. He responded that Kim was having so much fun he wanted to give her one more trip.

"So, they win at Kansas City and then Hunter brings him out at Pro-Am the next spring in junior exhibitor so we can get them in the ring and see what he's like. Well, they were so good doing that we thought we would just stay with performance and get Hunter something else for equitation. They showed

and was always a show horse.

"You won't have many in a lifetime that do what he did. He was one of those horses that you took to the show and could always count on winning or being no lower than second every time you hit the gate. You miss that, you miss those types. It's easy to take that for granted but man, it's hard for a horse to do that over and over."

Remaining with Miles at DeLovely, McDreamy partnered with Malika Keglowsch to win the 16-year-old age group at Louisville in 2016 before finishing reserve in The Good Hands Finals and Top 6 in the UPHA Senior Challenge Cup Finals. The next year they moved to the pleasure division and were reserve in both Louisville performances.

The next chapter in McDreamy's storied career involved Kellie and Dalton Budd and their client Faith Robbins. The Budds were well-known in the Arabian world and had just started dabbling with a few American Saddlebreds as well.



CH I'm McDreamy was successfully campaigned by Kim Cowart during his three and four-year-old years for owner Lindy Ware. Their career together included world's and national titles.



At only 13, Hunter Chancellor was CH I'm McDreamy's next partner. The plan was equitation until the two proved to be a force in the junior exhibitor three-gaited division with 28 victories in 32 trips in both the 13 & under and 14 -17 divisions.

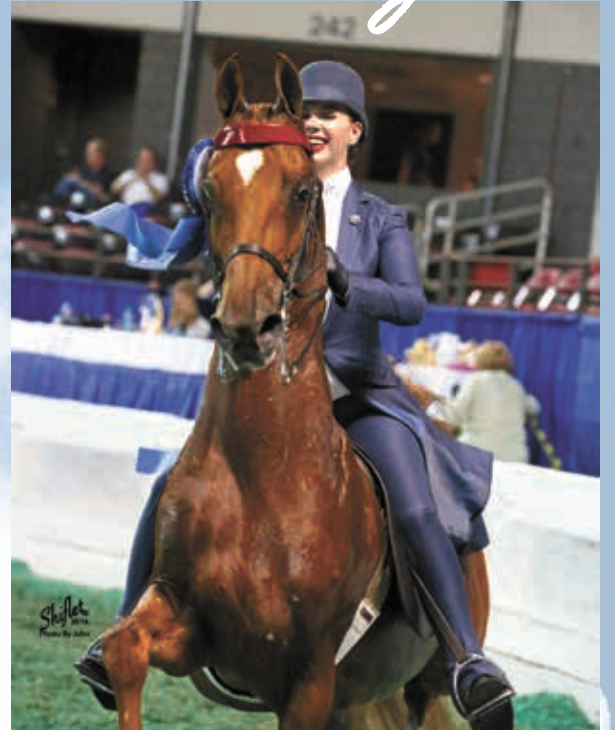
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In Chancellor's final junior exhibitor season, the team moved to the park division pursuing the coveted blanket of roses. They had an incredible last season together making that dream come true with wins also at Midwest, Asheville, Bridlespur and Kansas City.



Macey Miles showed McDreamy to his first equitation title winning the 14-Year-Old Saddle Seat Equitation World's Champion title.



Now equited and looking for a new partner, in 2016 he was selected for DeLovely rider Malika Keglowsch. Keglowsch earned a world's champion and The Good Hands Reserve National Champion titles in addition to a top ten finish in the senior challenge cup.

Robbins' horse had pulled a lot of foot at Lexington and did it again at Louisville. With the Finals right around the corner the decision was made to get another horse for her as it was her last year of equitation.

"We knew this was Faith's last go so we needed something that was successful, knew what it was doing," said Kellie Budd. "We tried McDreamy and instantly thought it was a good fit. They were reserve in The Good Hands Finals and Top 10 at Kansas City.

"Kaylee Atkinson had moved to us and

going out to show. He was one of the most willing horses that I've ever had. He loved going to the show ring.

"Todd [Miles] did a great job with him. We just put our spin on it. He had a special way to do some things, like canter, but you just had to do it his way."

"McDreamy was a great horse; he gave you his all every day," added Dalton Budd who worked the star this past year. He hits the ring and really likes it. It's a pretty cool feeling.

"We had gone to Louisville for a few years and had loved McDreamy. I couldn't believe

when we had a chance to buy him and then I was working him. I'm going to miss him being great all the time. He made my job easy and they're not all like that. He knew the drill."

"McDreamy is a tough horse to replace," lamented Kellie. "He had a most unique look. He was the horse you wanted to watch going down the rail."

A tough horse to replace indeed. When McDreamy died the lights went out on a not just a show horse, but a performer. He had the attitude, brain and athletic ability all breeders pray for and all trainers live for.

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we loved McDreamy so they bought him. They showed a few times this year and every show was a little better."

After wins at River Ridge and Bonnie Blue in May, Atkinson's next appearance was the 16-year-old age group in Freedom Hall where they were reserve only to come back and win the World's Champion of Champions Senior Saddle Seat Equitation honors, McDreamy's last show ring appearance,

"McDreamy loved to show," said Budd. "He knew the difference in going out to work and



Kaylee Atkinson had the honor of making the last victory pass with this amazing show horse. CH I'm McDreamy carried Atkinson to the World's Champion of Champions Senior Saddle Seat Equitation title out of 23 teams.