



# Little Black Dress

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE OVERALL THREE-GAITED PARK

# CH My Royale Prince

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE RESERVE AMATEUR PARK

BY ERICA FAULKNER

Two black beauties, Little Black Dress and CH My Royale Prince, trained by Allison Deardorff at Deardorff Stable and owned by Sandy Gallagher, earned your approval for three People's Choice awards, in 2020. Little Black Dress, shown throughout the year by Deardorff, was your choice for both The People's Choice Open Park Mare and The People's Choice Overall Three-Gaited Park awards. Gallagher handled the honors of campaigning CH My Royale Prince, The People's Choice Reserve Amateur Park winner.

Little Black Dress made her show ring debut in 2016, at the World's Championship Horse Show where she earned a strong third place in the Three-Year-Old Fine Harness class with Mike Tunstall driving for Maple Ridge Farm. In 2017, she was named the

Junior Fine Harness Mares Reserve World's Champion with Bob Brison, and then moved to Autumn Hills Farm in 2018 with new owner Janet Kellett. She stayed in the harness division for a little over a year and made the jump to the competitive park division in 2019 at the KASPFA May Classic. It has been in this division that the mare has truly



Little Black Dress closed out the 2020 show season as the National Three-Gaited Park Reserve Champion and Reserve Grand Champion with trainer Allison Deardorff in the irons.

blossomed, winning all but one park class in 2019, including the Three-Gaited Park Mares class and the Open Three-Gaited Park Championship at Louisville.

Gallagher purchased the refined beauty at the end of the 2019 season and moved her to Deardorff Stable. Little Black Dress started the 2020 season off right where she left off, in the

winner's circle. Expertly presented by Deardorff, their first show out was the Carousel Charity Horse Show, where they had a clean sweep of the open park division.

Gallagher recalls their debut and the joy she felt watching her new horse come through the gate.

"I vividly remember the first time Allison showed her. Allison and Little Black Dress came through the gate, and I caught my breath. I literally got goosebumps, it was so exquisite. I will never forget that moment, and all the moments since that Allison has shown her. I am so grateful for this beautiful mare."

Another win at Silicon Valley and the duo was off to Lexington, where the mare and her trainer put in a crowd-pleasing performance to win the Open Three-Gaited Park Championship. It was on

to Louisville and then Kansas City where the Deardorff piloted the mare to her second reserve world's champion title, as well as her first Reserve World's Champion of Champions and Reserve National Champion and Grand Champion honors.

Gallagher speaks highly of the elegant mare.



CH My Royale Prince has compiled quite a show record throughout his career, with wins all over the country. He is pictured taking his victory pass in the Three-Gaited Park Stake at the Shelby County Summer Classic with owner Sandy Gallagher in the irons.

"Little Black Dress has a magical, ethereal quality to her. I could just stare at her in the stall all day, she is so beautiful. It's in her beautiful mane, the way she looks at you, how she holds herself. And then you get her out of her stall and wow! She captivates me every time I see her."

Gallagher is grateful for the opportunity to own this special horse. Deardorff commented that it was "fitting that these two found each other."

"Like Sandy, she is kind, quietly brilliant, and has a quality that draws people to her both in and out of the show ring. I'm just the lucky one who gets to have them both in my life."

Along with Little Black Dress, Deardorff has had the privilege of training Gallagher's other black

beauty, CH My Royale Prince.

"Though I've followed and admired Harry's career for a long time, being part of his life has been even more rewarding than I had imagined," said Deardorff.

Gallagher recalls their trip to Steve and Tiffany Wheeler's Autumn Hills Farm to try out the well-known champion.

"We went to Steve and Tiffany Wheeler's to try out Harry. They brought him out of his stall, and I widened my eyes. His presence was so commanding. I imagined that is what a King's prized horse would look like," said Gallagher.

Gallagher admits she was a tad nervous the first time she went to step aboard the gelding.

"I am sure I looked like a little kid standing next to him! But the nerves quickly went away when I got on him. He clearly just wanted to do his best

and make me happy. Which he did in spades! And from that moment, I couldn't get him out of my mind."

The gelding made the move to Deardorff Stables and the journey began. Together, this team earned good ribbons throughout 2020, with their debut being the most memorable show ring ride of the year for Gallagher.

"I showed him in Open Park. My first time out I had a good ride and got reserve," Gallagher said. "I wasn't sure what to expect showing him for the first time so I was a bit tentative. He hit the ring and wow! He had another gear! It was so fun."

Deardorff and Steve Wheeler helped Gallagher push a little harder and get more aggressive for her championship that week.

"In the warm-up ring [before the championship] I could tell he was ready to go! I will never forget how he felt. It was exhilarating. And it got even

better in the show ring. It was so awesome having both Allison and Steve coaching me on the rail. I can still hear Steve yelling "Pass him!! Go go!" And I did! And Harry just kept getting better and better."

After a successful summer, they ended their season as the National Amateur Three-Gaited Park Reserve Grand Champions at Kansas City.

Together, this team continues to grow together and create a special bond that is apparent in and out of the show ring.

"After every ride, both Sandy and I become more grateful for him. Harry is the real deal, he never has a bad day and wants to make his 'people' happy," Deardorff said.

The journey for these two black beauties under Gallagher's ownership has just begun. 2021 is sure to be a standout year for them as they bring excitement to all those who get to see them show.



Sandy Gallagher and Allison Deardorff enjoyed a memorable season with CH My Royale Prince and Little Black Dress. They shared many memorable moments capped by a tricolor show at the UPHA American Royal National Championship.