



Divide N Conquer

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE OVERALL ROADSTER TO BIKE
THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE OPEN ROADSTER STALLION/GELDING TO BIKE

BY SARA PIZZUTO

Most world's grand champions carve their names into the history books after amassing a lengthy show record. However, the reigning Roadster To Bike World's Grand Champion, Divide N Conquer, was a relative newcomer when he roared off with the roses in Freedom Hall last year in what was only the fifth horse show of his entire career—an impressive feat for this speedster. Divide N Conquer earned the approval of the judging panel on stake night in Louisville and has now earned your vote as the People Choice Overall Roadster To Bike and Open Roadster Stallion/Gelding To Bike entry.

The Raque family purchased Divide N Conquer sight unseen in 2019 at the suggestion of trainer Jimmy Robertson. Robertson was in attendance at the Mt. Hope Standardbred Sale during Memorial Day weekend when Divide N Conquer caught his attention.

"They bought this horse over the phone," Robertson said. "They weren't there. They just, bless their hearts, listened to me."

Robertson has enjoyed a tremendous career with both road horses and ponies, dating back to his childhood, training with his father. He was quick to mention both Speed Limit, a road pony, and Dr. Pepper, a road horse whom his family had great success with.

"I've always been a fan of the roadsters," he said. "I had road ponies right along when I got out of school and went to work with my dad full time. I was usually the one who ended up with the road ponies. Since we started working the first one, most of the time I have had a road horse to work."

Jimmy Robertson eventually developed a lasting relationship with the Raque family. Robertson first instructed their daughter to ride and the Raque's have since become trusted clients of his and friends for over thirty years. The connections of Jimmy Robertson and the Raque's had been previously successful with Hot Lips, the 2014 Roadster To Bike Mare Stake World's Champion, and looked



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primed to do it again with their newest acquisition Divide N Conquer. Robertson was instantly drawn to Divide N Conquer because of his attitude.

"He's been a very game horse but also a very sensible horse," he said.

Divide N Conquer made his third ever show ring appearance in Louisville in 2019. He thrilled on the green shavings as the USTA Roadster To Bike Classic World's Champion with Robertson in



Divide N Conquer was named the Roadster To Bike World's Grand Champion in 2020 during what was only his fifth ever horse show. Jimmy Robertson continued his success with road horses on the lines of this speedster.

the bike. 2020 brought one reserve finish at the Shelby County Summer Classic before Robertson brought the entry back to Louisville. Despite Divide N Conquer's limited show experience, Robertson was confident in his speedster.

"I love how much he likes to work and how willing he is to work," Robertson said. "He went out of that sale and his third horse show was Louisville in 2019 and his fifth horse show was Louisville in 2020. He was very smart for his age otherwise he wouldn't have been ready that quick."

Divide N Conquer and Jimmy Robertson stormed onto the green shavings with great power to be named the Roadster To Bike Stallion/Gelding Stake Reserve World's Champions early in the week. Saturday evening's stake night was soon upon them and they answered the gate call for the Roadster To Bike World's Grand Championship to contend against an exciting group of fast trotting entries. The crowd soon awarded Jimmy Robertson and Divide N Conquer with a thunderous applause as they were named the best in the world, receiving the blanket of roses and a round of honor in the spotlight.

"It was absolutely a thrill of a lifetime," Robertson said. "It was a big thrill in a great class against a bunch of great horses. It tickled me because this horse is a pretty green horse especially when his fifth class that he's ever shown in is in Louisville."

The talents of Jimmy Robertson and Divide N Conquer will be on display yet again as the expert road horse trainer and his swift moving entry are set to compete in 2021. Robertson hopes to present Divide N Conquer at additional shows en route to Louisville in order for the entry to gain additional experience. With their combined talents and the support of their growing fan club, Robertson and Divide N Conquer are indeed set to conquer this division for seasons to come.