



THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Lovely

People's Choice Junior Fine Harness

By Erica Faulkner

It was Tuesday evening at the 2017 World's Championship Horse Show. Freedom Hall was about to welcome Carol Reedy's young mare, Lovely, through the ingate for the first time. Spectators, filled with anxious excitement, were on the edge of their seats waiting for her to make her entrance. Going a big lofty trot, with a true harness horse bounce, accompanied by her iconic flowing blonde mane, Lovely made an outstanding debut that night. The decision was unanimous. Lovely left Freedom Hall with the blue from the highly competitive ASR National Futurity Three-Year-Old Fine Harness class. Trainer Nancy Troutman handled the drive and she was smiling from ear to ear as they left the ring. It was obvious, this mare was a special one.

Breathtaking and loaded with quality, Lovely, as she is so aptly named, is owned and loved by Carol Reedy and trained by Troutman at Meadow Wood Stables in Salem, Virginia.

A four-year-old this year, her show career is just beginning. And if 2017 is an indication of what the future will hold, then it is sure to be one filled with electric performances and an abundance of blue ribbons.

Lovely, (originally named Lollipop Bling), is a product of A.E. Nelson's breeding program. Sired by Bob Bobaloo and out of Pleasantview's Eye Kandy, she possesses all the qualities of a champion.

It was just after Christmas in 2016, when Reedy and Troutman decided to travel to Kentucky to find a new horse for the coming year.

"We went to Kentucky last year with the sole purpose of finding a young fine harness prospect," said Reedy. They looked at several nice horses, but hadn't found what they were looking for, when Troutman decided to call Fred Sarver. According to Reedy, that was the phone call that changed everything.

"He suggested that we call Nelson Green." And that's just what they did. Green invited them to come by to see Lovely in person. The mare made her show ring debut at the Shelbyville Horse Show in 2016, winning the Two-Year-Old Fine Harness stake with Green driving. That was her only show ring appearance at the time. Owned by Beth Clifton, Lovely made a big first impression on Reedy. There was no doubt in her mind, she had found the perfect horse.

"I knew right when I saw her that she was the one," said Reedy. Without hesitation, she purchased the mare.

"We can't praise Nelson Green enough or A.E. Nelson who raised her and did such a wonderful job starting her," said Reedy.

Troutman feels the same. "I think her wonderful beginning is one reason she is so nice to work and show now." The mare is well behaved with wonderful attitude, which compliments her extreme natural ability.

It was a short winter getting to know one another before Troutman made her debut with the mare at Bonnie Blue. Their first time in the ring together was a success, as Lovely earned the top honors in the UPHA Fine Harness Classic class. As the year progressed, the mare continued to gain confidence, hitting her stride at



Nancy Troutman was smiling ear to ear as she drove Carol Reedy's breathtaking harness horse, Lovely, to her first win at Louisville. This stunning mare earned the approval of all three judges that evening, to win the World's Championship ASR National Three-Year-Old Fine Harness Futurity.

the most opportune time, the World's Championship Horse Show. Reedy was nervous, but excited, to see what Lovely and Troutman could accomplish on the green shavings.

"When they went in the ring she looked beautiful," said Reedy. "She is so pretty you just can't help but love her." During the class, a time out was called, and Reedy says the mare did her "sassy walk" all away around the ring. It was at that moment that she knew her horse was truly one of a kind, and by the cheers from the crowd, they agreed.



Lovely got better and better as the 2017 show season progressed. She closed out the year by winning the UPHA Fine Harness Classic at the American Royal.

"Everyone started cheering," said Reedy. "It was like she knew they were cheering for her." The mare swelled up and put on a show for her fans that night, leaving Freedom Hall with a unanimous win in the ASR National Futurity Three-Year-Old Fine Harness class.

"The win was a dream come true for all of us. Carol, Danny and I all realize how wonderful 2017 was." Troutman and Lovely closed out the year with two more wins, one at ASHAV and the other at Kansas City where they claimed the top title in the UPHA Fine Harness Classic Grand Championship.

"I truly think she is the whole package," said Reedy. "The mare goes a true park trot, and floats when she walks. To me she is exactly what a harness horse should look like."

At home, the mare exhibits traits of horses who are more mature in age than she is. She is patient, and has this calmness about her that Troutman appreciates as a trainer. She is a sweet mare to be around, both Reedy and Troutman explained. She loves attention, and loves her carrots, just as one might expect.

"She is sensible at home, but she also likes to get aired up," said Troutman. "She is calm when you are working around her, but then is game and all show horse when it counts."

Reedy has enjoyed watching her trainer campaign Lovely throughout the year, commenting that Troutman is her best friend,

and that she really bought the horse, so Troutman could enjoy some time in the ring. Although Reedy has yet to drive the mare, she has taken the opportunity to ride her. "What a thrill that is!" Reedy said.

If 2018 is anything like 2017, Lovely is sure to be seen in the winner's circle time and time again. The plan is to campaign her in the junior harness classes with Troutman handling the drives. "I want Nancy to have as much fun for as long as she wants," said Reedy, when asked why she is not showing the mare herself. "In the future, we will most likely share the fun."

"Sitting behind her when she starts marching and her mane starts flying, is quite the feeling!" Troutman said. "We feel so lucky and blessed to have Lovely."

Troutman's goal is to do all she can to keep this unique mare, happy and healthy. She feels confident that Lovely will continue to rise to the occasion every time she hits the show ring. Having already acquired a World's Championship win, a National Championship win, the honor of UPHA Horse Of The Year in the Open Fine Harness division, Horse World's Junior Fine Harness People's Choice Winner, as well as Saddle Horse Report's High Point Winner in the junior fine harness category, in her first full season of showing, it's evident that this mare is going to be one to remember.