

SUPER ROOSTER

An Unforgettable Super Star



Super Rooster and Lisa (McClaren) Munao were winners in every division in which they competed under the direction of Mike and Dale Arnston and Julie Anne (Arnston) Wroble. photo by Mallory J. Hartigan

by Leeann Mione

Super Rooster was one of those horses that just left an impression on everyone who crossed his path. He was a little bit like the "Dennis The Menace" - mischievous enough to keep you on your toes around him but beautiful, kind and friendly enough to always make you want to watch him and spend time with him.

Sired by CH The King Of Highpoint and out of the mare Bi Mi Magic Preference, he was born in June 1994 and owned by breeder Dr. Gene Scott until he was two years old. Libby Mathers bought him in September of his two-year-old year after he'd been crowned Reserve World's Champion ASHA Amateur Futurity Of Kentucky Two-Year-Old In Hand.

As a three-year-old he debuted at Midwest with A.J. Bruwer and they also showed in the Three-Year-Old Park Pleasure Sweepstakes at All American Horse Classic, earning good ribbons at both shows. At Wisconsin Futurity, they were top three in the UPHA Park Pleasure Classic.

His junior year brought a new owner, new trainers and even more show ring success. The Arnstons, of Country Meadow Farm, had selected him for customer Gail Pitts with the intention of making them a team for the pleasure division. Julie Anne (Arnston) Wroble debuted with him at the 1998 Mid-America Spring Horse Show where they were the Junior Park Pleasure Champions. That win propelled them to a fantastic first year together that included eight wins in the junior park pleasure division at Chapter 5, Madison Classic, Tanbark Cavalcade Of Roses, All American Horse Classic, Wisconsin Futurity and St. Louis National. His only loss came at Kansas City where he was the Junior Park Pleasure Reserve Champion.

Rooster and Gail Pitts never became teammates because Jeanne Pettry purchased Rooster for daughter Kristen to show in the show pleasure division. They debuted at Madison Classic in 1999 and went home as the Adult Three-Gaited Pleasure 18-28 Grand Champions and reserve champions. Tanbark and Lexington followed and they then headed to Freedom Hall for their first Louisville together. Rooster earned his second reserve world's championship title; wearing the red ribbon with Kristen in the Adult Three-Gaited Show Pleasure 18-29 class. They went on to show at Saint Louis and the American Royal to close out a great season.

Kristen remembers him fondly. "Rooster was one of a kind. He had a heart of gold and something new up his sleeve every time we went through the gate. I



Kristen Pettry showed Rooster in his first year in the show pleasure division and in addition to their reserve world's championship in the 18-29 adult division they earned wins and reserves at Madison Classic, Tanbark, Lexington and Saint Louis National.



The western division was Rooster's favorite and with Lisa he was the Junior Exhibitor Shatner Western Pleasure National Champion and twice the Shatner Western Pleasure Reserve National Champion.

think he took great pride in keeping his riders on their toes. He was a very special horse and I am lucky to have had him in my life."

Rooster's talent and good looks made him a much sought after pleasure horse and in 2000 Bruce and Elaine McLaren purchased him for their daughter Lisa to show. The plan for Rooster and Lisa however was to tackle and excel in the equitation division. It was a completely new job for Rooster and he gave it his all.

Lisa and Rooster went on to have great success in the equitation division. They were silver medalists in the Senior Pleasure Equitation Olympics, finished in the top 10 in both the pleasure equitation national finals and the saddle seat equitation national championships and won equitation classes at shows throughout the country.

Rooster and Lisa also had tremendous success in the show pleasure division and then the country pleasure division. Rooster's expressive face and dynamic personality made him stand out in even the biggest pleasure classes but it was their move to the western country pleasure division that Rooster liked the best.

They debuted at Milwaukee Spring Horse Show and were top three in the Junior/Novice Western Pleasure class. They came back and showed in the adult 29 and under class and judge Lonnie Lavery sent them to the winner's circle just as he did in the Shatner Western Pleasure class. They went on to be Madison Classic's Western Country Pleasure Champions and grand champions. They were off to a great start.

One of their most impressive wins of that first season together in the western division came at Saint Louis National where they were crowned the 2004 Shatner Junior Exhibitor Western Pleasure National Champions.



Super Rooster proved to be a super star in every division he competed in. He and Lisa (McClaren) Munao were Senior Pleasure Equitation Olympics Silver Medalists and earned top 10 ribbons in both the saddle seat and pleasure equitation national finals as well as equitation wins and reserves at shows throughout the country.

Rooster and Lisa had found yet another division in which to excel. In their next 10 years together in the show ring they earned wins and reserves at show after show including twice being named the Shatner Western Pleasure Reserve National Champions.

He was in the top 10 of every Shatner national championship class he showed in. He was a many time People's Choice, High Point, IASPAH, Mid-America and All American award winner and he had wins and or reserves in every division he showed in.

The ribbons and trophies earned by Super Rooster could fill a room but the memories he created with all who knew and loved him could fill a book.

"He probably did more for me than any other horse I've trained," said Julie (Arnston) Wroble. He did a lot of jobs for a lot of people. He taught them and me a lot because he was naughty but not too naughty and he wasn't a cinch to ride. He made us all smile."

Dale Arnston also couldn't say enough good things about Super Rooster. "When thinking about Rooster and our time together so many things went through my mind. We bought him as a three-year-old and he fit into our barn immediately. He was always at the front of his stall waiting for a pat or someone to talk to him or give him a treat.

"Julie showed him with much success and we couldn't have been happier when he became a reserve world's champion with Kristen Pettry, a super close friend of ours.

"Lisa was 12 years old when she started at our barn and she showed him in pleasure, pleasure equitation, saddle seat equitation and western pleasure. He was a star in all divisions.

"So besides being part of our family I guess you could call Super Rooster a Super Horse for his owners, caretakers and trainers and we thank him from the bottom of our hearts."

Rooster had a fan club; no doubt about that. It is Lisa McLaren Munao however who is his number one fan.



Rooster was a character and when he won a class he was so proud and excited that he'd buck on the victory pass to the delight of the crowd. If he didn't win the blue he left the ring as a perfect gentleman.

"Super Rooster was truly a one of a kind, once in a lifetime kind of horse. When the Arnstons suggested "Roo" as my new equitation horse when I was in 13 and under I remember being just blown away. Rooster was already a star. He was a well-known park pleasure horse and nearly undefeated in the show ring.

"We quickly grew to be great partners and he taught me so much about riding, about teamwork, and about horsemanship. He always kept me on my toes because he genuinely enjoyed throwing a buck or a scoot just when the judge was watching (especially the last trot before the line up).

"He was a favorite in the barn but not because he was gentle and sweet; it was because he had so much spunky personality. He loved visitors, especially kids, so he could nip at them and push them around. You would open his stall door and he would run up like he was going to bust out, so excited to see a friend, and after a visit as you were closing the door he would do a spin and a little bucking hop in protest.

"If you asked him for a hug and put your arms around his neck he would bend and wrap his head around you pulling you in for an embrace. He loved his withers scratched and would flare his lips and rock back and forth as you itched him.

"He thought grooming was fun only because he could bite and push me around, unzip the zippers on my coat, rip the buttons off my clothes or lift me up by a belt loop. And no matter how much you cleaned him he was always still grubby. I spent many a morning braiding his mane over just to see it flip to the wrong side during a class.

"We did so much together; from 13 and under saddle seat equitation to pleasure equitation where we won silver in the Pleasure Olympics to show

pleasure, country pleasure and finally his favorite, western pleasure.

"In our first year together we won the Junior Exhibitor Shatner Western Pleasure National Championship and we spent the next decade showing across the Midwest and even Louisville.

"He started a new tradition for himself as well, throwing wild bucks after getting a first place ribbon. Every show he seemed to escalate this behavior and made quite a spectacle of himself. He would spin, snort and buck all the way out of the ring. It even got so bad we would leave before second place was called.

"One time we even got stuck in the ring at Springfield, [Il.], because he had the whole arena to himself to buck around. Mike [Arnston] could hardly hold him.

"When we were reserve grand champions at the Shatner finals he was bucking so hard I got my belt buckle looped around the horn of the saddle and I was stuck as he acted like a bronco in the winner's circle.

"He would buck so hard I'd lose my stirrups and my hat would fly off but if he got anything other than blue he would walk out like a gentleman, sometimes looking back forlornly at a missed opportunity (it was

usually his own fault because he got too excited and bucked during the class).

"Rooster was with me through nearly 20 years of my life (I've had the Superoo license plate for 16 of those years). He was my best teacher, my comforter, the source of so much laughter.

"He was there for me through my teenage years, when I would come home from college, through the loss of my mom, job and home changes and everything in between. He was a constant through two-thirds of my life, full of mirth, mischief and joy and always ready to give me a hug to make yet another wonderful day at the barn.

"He made such an impression on everyone who knew him and his antics endeared him to us all. I will forever miss his big stunning eyes and eager face when I would come to his stall, and his smell as I nuzzled into him for a chat. He will have a very, very special place in my heart as well as in the hearts of everyone who loved him.

"To own and love a horse for so long, for him to be a partner and a friend for so much of my life, is an unparalleled blessing and I am forever grateful to God, to Country Meadow Farm, to Mike, Dale, Julie and Fernando, my parents and to everyone who cared for him and gave him the best life a horse and his girl could ask for."



Rooster and Lisa grew up together and were a great team. He loved her as much as she loved him and he had a personality that endeared him to everyone he met.