

2012 Appaloosa French Championship & Futurities

October 31 - November 2 2012, Lyon. Also this year it's the International Horse Fair named EquitaLyon (the biggest and most famous horse fair in France) to accommodate within its rich programming the French Championship dedicated to Appaloosa Horses. Among prestigious international cutting, reining and barrel shows, the halter and performance classes held by ApHCF represented a pride in the promotion of American horses, giving an excellent presentation of this breed to a varied audience that went to "Equita" in Lyon, a beautiful city in the south east of France. To attend this important event, a four judged one, horses came from six different nations of Europe with the hope to earn a French title under the sight of Gene Carr from South Dakota, Mary Ingwerson from Nebraska, Richard and Marjbritt Lemay from Sweden.

During last years the French Championship tasted more and more its international character, which consecrates it among the European major events. 39 horses came to Lyon to represent of course France, as well as Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Spain and Belgium, for a total of 250 entries.

Surprising the number of successes claimed by foreign horses!!! Among them one of the most winning horses is Sadalbari Pegasus (Pegasus Futuristic X Qar Deal Me In) owned by Cornelia Schmid, from Switzerland, that share with Ronja Schmid five French titles: Hunter In Hand geldings All Ages, Youth Hunter Under Saddle 18 & Under, Youth Hunt Seat Equitation 18 & Under, Open Sr Trail, Youth Trail 18 & Under. Impressive achievement for such a young horsewoman. She also get the Open Jr Trail French title, all over judges, on MVA Paradise Vision (Laser Vision X Clearrounds Paradise) owned by Samuel Schmid.

Pablo Star Reward (Blue Poco Star X Jennifer Reward) showed by the owner Ludovic De Potter is all over judges first in Open 3yo Stallions, Grand Champion Stallions, Non Pro Halter Stallions. Also he caught the title of French Champion in Open and Non-Pro Most Colorful At Halter. The team came from Belgium like Colored By Asset and Marie De Vleeschouwer: Non Pro Hunter In Hand Stallions Champions. The 3Yo stallion also won the Western Pleasure Futurity and Hunter Under Saddle Futurity showed by the Italian trainer Francesco Bassi that caught the 2012 Junior Western Pleasure French title too. "It's nice when you plan a colt. The project start with the choice of bloodlines and when everything goes as it should go up to achieve success like happened here it's wonderful!" Francesco said. "This is a really good horse, with exceptional movement and a gentle temperament, easy to train and ride. This horse is really cool! I like him and I really believe in its potential to become a super all around. I also trained and showed his father, but I am sure that he will become even better. This is truly a great horse!"

But Francesco go on and he's also French Champion in Sr Western pleasure aboard TooHot For Chocolate, a buckskin mare by Hot Chocolate Chip X Angelic Power. With Marie Bentley, the Belgian owner, this great mare won the title in the Non Pro Western Pleasure Too!

Spanish success! Thanks to his trainer Marita Estival, owner of Kings Valley Ranch, Lluís Gil Vernet has seen the triumph of his stallion's daughters. Starlit Of Kid De GV by Heza Kid For Sure X Rock The Stars is Open Yearling Fillies French Champion and the half sister Zip Of Kid De GV, out of Zip Star Du Sagiran, is Open 2Yo Mares & Grand Champion Mares (all over judges), and showed by Maria Gil Vernet caught first place all over judges also in Halter Non Pro Mares.

Goes to Germany the title in Open Hunter In Hand All Ages thanks to great performance of Ma Andrews Vision (Vision Of A Dream X Impressive Anna) owned by Manja Troeger and showed by French trainer and ApHC Judge Nicolas Perrin.

Also Italy has its Champion: Touch Of My Heart F. This mare by Td In Three out of Kela O Dream was bred and is still owned by Giampietro Bresciani. She won Open 3Yo Mares & Reserve Grand Champion Mares showed by Massimo Carraro and with Ilaria Bresciani the first position all over judges in Halter Youth Mares.

Among the French horses that have conquered more podium there CB Look Yor Romeo (Yor Whiskey River X Look Blons Invit) exhibitor Eloise Guilmont, that she's also owner of this yearling. They won the Gelding Hunter In Hand Futurity "I bought it when he was two months,"

she says. "He has turned one year old in May. He born later, but it's a really good horse that I bought from Le Clos Des Bruyères where Silvia Durmont trained him for me and my sister." It wasn't enough for CB Look Yor Romeo be protagonist during the first day of competition, so also Thursday he collects successes. With Eloise he get also the leadership in the Futurity Yearling In Hand Trail, Halter Yearling geldings and Yearling Longe Line. Eloise with this beautiful leopard colt also get the National Championship in Open Yearling geldings and the title of Grand Champion geldings and all over judges in Non Pro Halter geldings. With her __younger sister, however, Amelie Guilmont, he is French Champion in Youth Halter geldings, Youth Most Colorful At Halter, Open Yearling Longe Line and Yearling Longe Line Non Pro.

Amelie has also exhibited with success her CB Just Because (Bogieplated Jac X Roman princess Olena). She was still on the podium winning title of Futurity Champion 2Yo Hunter Under Saddle and Western Pleasure. With CB Just Because, Amelie Guilmont is also French Champion in Halter Mares 2yo. "I am very happy," she said. "This was the first time I took part in a ridden class with her. I trained her by my self and for me to be there today it's a great satisfaction. She is perfect to become a very good all round mare. She has the conformation and the attitude that I always liked to have in a horse."

Other Futurity Championships have been assigned. Back to win CB Bogies Real Angel (Bogieplated Jac X Sheza Real Crime) who, with his owner Capucine Delange alongside the title Futurity Champion Hunter In Hand Mares won on the first day, those in 3Yo Trail and Halter 3Yo Mares. The pair, also caught the 2012 French Champion all over judges in Open Hunter In Hand Mares All Ages.

Ockinzips Dynamicjpr and Marie-Jeanne Guilbault won the 2YO In Hand Trail Futurity Champion. This colt by Jocelyne Renaudin son of Zips Bonanza out of Rockin Cadillac is also in French Open Champion 2YO Trail In Hand. Another Futurity Champion claimed in 2012 was Smoothie Du Sagiran (Dreaminchocolatechip X Zip In Amoretto) in Weanling Fillies class, showed by Betty Jean and with in she's also National Champion 2012.

Between the appaloosas the most awarded in Lyon there is certainly the one onwed by Didier Boivin: CB Skip S Cowboy, sired by Bogieplated Jac out of HM Think Pink. Exhibited by Colette Boivin he won the Non Pro classes in Hunter In Hand geldings, Non Pro Western Showmanship at Halter and Open Aged geldings as well as the Reserve Grand Championship geldings, while Laura Dumont is French Champion in Youth Western Showmanship 18 & Under.

Another horse/rider combination that has recorded many successes is Good Asset Paradise and Marie-Jeanne Guilbault. Son of Good Advice X Lily N Paradise, Paradise Good Asset is owned by Vincent Mazin / Dekoster and after the win in the Hunter In Hand Futurity, he also won the Open Yearling In Hand Trail and, today, the Open Yearling Colts class and the Reserve Grand Championship. "He's a great prospect. He'll become high, a perfect horse for English classes. Already He has great movement and also he has a great character! I can not wait to be able to broke and train him! For this success I must be grateful to the owner that did the most of the work to catch the titles"!

Northern Tiger (Sabre Tiger X Northern Anne), owner Anne Bescher, has been one of the protagonists of EquitàLyon. With her Anne's older daughter, Agathe, Northern Tiger is French Champion in Youth Hunter In Hand geldings 18 & Under and 18 Under Youth Western Equitation, while her youngest sister Lucie stands first in the ranking of four classes: Walk & Trot Hunter Under Saddle 10 & Under, Walk & Trot Hunter Under Saddle 10 & Under, Walking & Trail Trot 10 & Under and finally Walk & Trot Western Equitation 10 & Under over all judges. But these are only the title of the first show day! Northern Tiger did it again! With Agathe he caught other three French Championship in Senior Western Riding, Youth Western Riding 18 & Under and at last, but not at least in Youth Western Pleasure 18 & Under.

Xaintry Pretty Crime (Xaintry Success Kid X Sheza Real Crime) owned by Guy Magnin Robin, showed by Lauriane Chaut won Walk & Trot Western Showmanship 10 & Under (all over judges),

the Walk/Trot Western Pleasure 10 & Under. The Novice Youth Western Pleasure 18 & Under Franch Championship class was crowned by Thomas Peron on Thanks Goer Vergnole (One Avenger Goes Cnz X Mj Goldy Goer Go).

Following the other French Champions:

Sweetie Ambrose PM (Mighty Ambrose X Sissi Jo Straw), owned by Pierre Maupas, showed by Elodie Maupas: Non Pro Hunter In Hand Mares & Non Pro Western Equitation.

With A French Accent (French Accent X Gene's Applenty) & Ulrike Mohr: Open Sr Hunter Under Saddle

Sweet Goes Vergnole (One Avenger Goes CNZ X Queen Delfie) owned by Dylan Petit Jean, showed by Isabelle Deriaud: Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle (all over judges) & Non Pro Hunt Seat Equitation

Chanoyu Flash Lady (Rocket Man Two X Princess Be Smooth) owned by Denis Gunsett, showed by Lisa Gunsett: Novice Youth Hunter Under Saddle 18 & Under.

GD Flash Bogie Smooth (Bogieplanted Jac X Chanoyu Flash Lady) e Denis Gunsett: Non Pro Trail (all over judges).

Scooter Olena owned by Camille Auguste, showed by Anne Sophie Guerreiro: Open Sr Reining (all over judges).

Pending colt (Elusive Rocketfinder X Rembers Majestic) owned by Marie-Pierre Arone, showed by Carine Monard: Open Weanling Colts

Bogieplanted Jac (Tap And Bogie X Beau Plated Jac) e Silvia Dumont: Get Of Sire

My Lucky Lady Totem (Inc Dancing Totem X My Lucky Lady Rocket) e Marion Soubayre: Open Aged Mares

The show has not been only competitions. It needs to praise ApHC to have created different amusing moments for riders and owners. Friday evening, ApHCF opened festivities. A show ended It offered to all its members and their friends an aperitif at the club office. All the associations do that and the atmosphere were wonderful, amazing, so funny!

Saturday, at lunch time, when the fair ground was full of people and there was more affluence to EquitàLyon, ApHCF honored all its 2012 National Champion with a so exciting award ceremony in the show arena. This started with the solemn speech by the President, Elodie Maupas, a so young but determined girl that did a great job to promote the appaloosa breed in France. She managed the show and the stand during the fair in a lovely way even so productive! That give to ApHCF the opportunity to assign great prizes. Only the futurities had pay back more than 4.000 Euro. But this wasn't enough for ApHCF! Elodie and her staff, thanks to sponsors, reward the French Champions with 40 polar blankets, 6 Mark Shaffer's training DVD, 1 Nicolas Perrin's Clinic, Youth's Lots provided by Le Clos Des Bruyères, 20 vouchers to the value of € 50 and 20 of € 20, 2 voucher for showclothes at the value of 100€ to the shop Bombastic. But it's not over here!!! Every class winner get a trophy and there were also 5 big ApHC bronze trophy e 3 Buckles sponsored by GL Event, brand manager of EquitàLyon.

For every French Champion was granted his moment of glory. Everyone paraded into the arena taking credit of his success under sound applause. The ceremony was very impressive: merit to the ApHCF that organized the show very well and to champions too that have been rewarded with pride for the work behind winning performances.

By Serena Montanari, Equità'lyon Western journalist