

SPORTS

Dreammaster earns prestigious title

Dreamcatcher Meadows steeds earn high honours

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There must be something in the water over at Dreamcatcher Meadows (DMV) in Pemberton, which saw its horses and riders doing exceptionally well over the past riding season.

Partners Jill Giese and John Dingle specialize in breeding elite Hanoverian stallions, and the prestigious Hanoverian title was recently awarded to Giese and Dingle's prize stallion, Dreammaster.

To obtain the entitlement, a horse must come from a stallion and a mother that have already been through the licensing process. The animal is then inspected by a five-person, German committee after receiving high results in several international competitions.

"And, we have done it the hardest way possible, which is to do it with performance results," Giese said.

Dreammaster was trained and bred at the stable and is currently in California training with former Olympic medalist Charlotte Bredahl at her farm. Based on his past scores this season, Dreammaster's evaluation committee unanimously agreed to license him as a Hanoverian and gave him the highest compliment for a horse.

"They said he was the epitome of the modern sport horse," Giese said. "Charlotte competed with him this summer and he has just blown everybody away.

"He's just won, won, won and won," she added with a laugh.

Dreammaster seems to have prestige coursing through his blood, as he was named for his mother, Dreamcatcher, who also did very well this season and just received two very rare awards. According to Giese, she is the first horse

in North America to complete all five stars of the American Warmblood Society's award system that is based on the horse's own achievements and that of her progeny.

The second rare award Dreamcatcher received was the Leistungsstute Dressur from the German head society at the Spruce Meadows Masters show this autumn, which roughly translates to an exceptional lifetime performance award.

Meanwhile, Giese's own horse, Mastermind, just won the Pacific Regional four-year-old Championships this past weekend at Thunderbird Showpark in Langley.

"It was an exceptional weekend," she said.

DMV's three-year-old, home-bred horse, Ballerina, recently won the three-year-old Championship Horse of the Year title as well as the Reserved Champion for all three-, four- and five-year-old horses in all of the United States for the entire year.

"That's an incredibly big deal -- you have to go and compete and they take your scores in dressage competition and they take the medium score," Giese said.

In dressage competitions, an average score is about 60 per cent, said Giese.

"If you get to 70 per cent, you are doing exceptionally well. John had 87 per cent with Ballerina," Giese said.

But the success for the stable didn't stop with the horses this season, as its riders also performed extremely well, Giese said.

Whistler's Katerina Suchy, 17, is currently trying to qualify for the 2012 B.C. Summer Games. Over the weekend at the Pacific Regional Championships, she received the first part of results that she needs to compete in the multi-sport event to be hosted in Surrey.

Meanwhile, it was another Whistler local, Shelley Sharpe, who rode Mastermind to the title in Langley on the weekend.

"Our young riders are going out there and conquering and that's nice because it's local. It started locally and very humbly," Giese said.



DREAMMASTER