

Heartbreaker

Strong Top Jumper Sire

Heartbreaker belongs to the select group of keur stallions and currently leads the Dutch index of stallions with offspring ages 10 and up. Last year, he was invited to Oud-Heverlee, Belgium and declared the Belgian Warmblood Ambassador. His offspring are all noted for their desire to work and will to jump. Furthermore, most have good conformation. Heartbreaker has greatly influenced present-day show jumping.

Heartbreaker's bloodlines are ideal: He is a Nimmerdor son, the KWPN Stallion of the 20th Century; and his dam is Bacarole, a Silvano daughter. Though not noted for his conformation, Silvano (s.Le Mexico) was a successful international show jumper with Italian rider Giorgio Nuti and sired several international show jumpers, including April (ds.Millerole xx), Etruria Mille (ds.Lucky Boy), and Santa Douglas (ds.Zodiac). In addition to Heartbreaker, Silvano's dam-line also produced the KWPN approved



"Heartbreaker is definitely the best horse I've ever had", says Peter Geerink about the stallion with which he achieved many major wins, including placing fourth at Aachen in 2000.

Successful Offspring

Heartbreaker leads the Dutch jumping index and ranks second in Belgium. Number one in Belgium is Heartbreaker's son Quasimodo van de Molendreef, and number three is another of the stallion's sons, Toulon. In 2006, the Heartbreaker son Dulf van den Bisschop was the Champion of the Belgian Warmblood Stallion Selection. Heartbreaker's KWPN approved sons in the Netherlands are Harley VDL (d.Larthago by Carthago Z); Padinus (d.Ladina by Grannus), who died in 2005; Regilio (d.Maud by Burggraaf); Sibon W (d.Ilonka by Oula Owl xx); and Upgrade (d.Palett by Pilot). Untouchable (d.Promesse by Heartbreaker) is the stallion's approved grandson and was sold as a sporthorse last winter. Heartbreaker has also sired a respectable number of keur, elite, preferent, and prestatie mares. Among these, Sky High V (ds.Damiro B) won Champion of the 2002 Limburg Central Keuring, and Wastrade (ds.Burggraaf) won Champion of the 2006 Gelderland Central Keuring. Furthermore, Heartbreaker daughters are known for excelling in free jumping at the Mare Selections. Last year, the Heartbreaker daughter Zaire (ds.Cassini I) won the Dutch Championship free jumping. In 2003, Tupina (ds.Burggraaf) was the best among the three-year-old mares. Heartbreaker's time in Belgium--where he continues to be a popular stallion--as well as his first years in the Netherlands produced many offspring that climbed to the top. Those bred under the KWPN flag include Lingotto (ds.Grannus), Pino (ds.Burggraaf), Eurocommerce Pittsburg (ds.Concorde), Rembrandt (ds.Fedor), Acertijo (ds.Le Mexico), Romanov (ds.Fedor), and Ronaldo (ds.Voltaire).



Harley VDL is a KWPN approved Heartbreaker son. He is pictured here with Dennis van Tilburg.



Foto: Jacob Meijssen

Zaire (s.Heartbreaker) was the free jumping winner at the 2007 Dutch Championships.

stallions Glennridge (s. Wellington) and Democraat (s. Pion).

No Targeted Breeding

Heartbreaker was born April 16, 1989 on Piet Koopmans' property in Bozum, Friesland. Koopmans: "I had a broodmare that didn't get pregnant anymore. That's when I bought Bacarole from Wiepke van de Lageweg. She was four years old at the time and in-foal to Nimmerdor. Bacarole was out of a good line, and her price was right. Furthermore, she was a very temperamental but honest horse, an intelligent broodmare with conformation a bit on the fine side. Her first foal by Nimmerdor was a colt that ended up going to Van de Lageweg. The foal seemed to be a good one, so I bred Bacarole to Nimmerdor again. That year, I took her to the Selection, but she didn't get ster; that happened after I sold her. Back then, I was totally occupied with building my farm business. I really didn't have time for a horse, so I decided to sell the mare and her son. I remember that Heartbreaker was a strong and well-built foal from day one. Actually, I started bree-

ding again just six years ago, but I approach it differently now. Back then, I didn't look closely to see if a stallion fit with a mare, but now I do. Nimmerdor and Bacarole weren't a targeted combination, but they certainly turned out to be a good one!" Koopmans sold his mare and foal to fellow farmer Hendrik Nieuwhof of nearby Berlicum. Nieuwhof: "Heartbreaker arrived when he was several weeks old. He was a unique foal: Very elastic and alert. I didn't want to keep a stallion, so I offered him to Wiepke van de Lageweg. I told him, 'If you want to buy the very best, then you should get this one,' but Wiepke thought he was much too expensive. However, Meinte Jensma immediately paid my asking price and took Heartbreaker with him."

Ster

Nieuwhof bred Bacarole again and got two fillies: Infinity (s. Dreamstreet) and Joyce (s. Wellington). Then, he took Bacarole to the Keuring. According to Nieuwhof, "Bacarole was a wonderful mare but had sustained a fracture as a foal. As a result, her foot was a bit crooked and her move-

ment was a little unusual--at certain times better, at other times worse. Wiepke and Piet weren't able to get her ster, but I wanted to give it a try. To that end, I spent a lot of time with Meinte Jensma, and Bacarole was great on the Keuring day. Three times is a charm: She placed first and got ster. I didn't go for keur because I've always had bad luck with keur mares: They either get injured or sick, so I was content with Bacarole's ster. I only used her as a broodmare. She had a very good temperament but was an active horse. After Joyce was born, Wiepke bought Bacarole. I sold Infinity quickly, too.

"I kept Joyce and started breeding her--she was also a wonderful mare. She got ster easily, and Henk Nijhof thought I should go on to get her the keur predicate, but I didn't do it because of the bad experiences I mentioned. Joyce foaled exceptionally good sporthorses, including Topgun by Corland, who a Canadian bought; and Red Hot by Indoctro, who Rodrigo Pessoa showed. I sold almost all the foals to Meinte Jensma."

Unfortunately, Joyce got struck by lightning



The approved KWPN stallion Sibon W (s.Heartbreaker) and rider Patrick Lemmen in the VHO Trophy class at the 2008 KWPN Stallion Selection.

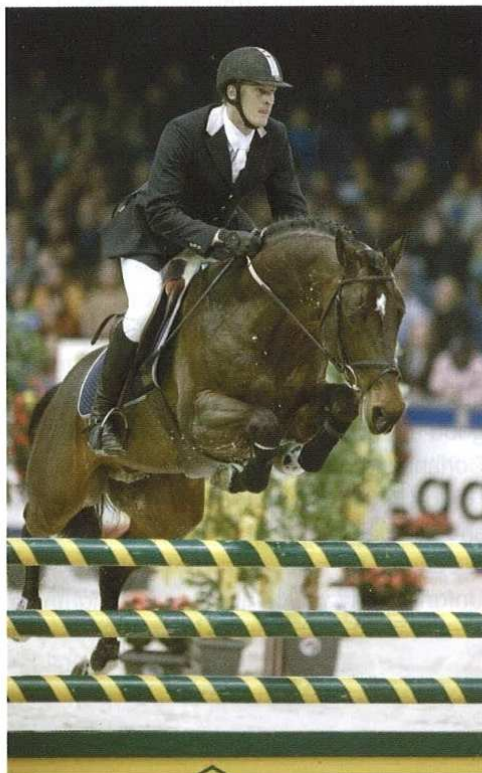


Foto: Sandra Nieuwendijk

Sky High V (s.Heartbreaker) was the 2002 Champion at the Limburg Central Selection.



The approved KWPN stallion *Padinus* (s.*Heartbreaker*) died in 2005.



Junior rider *Kristian Houwen*'s mount is the KWPN stallion *Regilio* (s.*Heartbreaker*). The combination's achievements include finishing second in the final standings of the 2007/2008 KNHS/KWPN Mitsubishi Stallion Competition.

last year and died immediately. "I still have two of her fillies, both by *Oramé*. I was about to sell *Amore*, who's three years old now, for € 20,000 but then something happened. You see, it was hard to keep *Amore* in her pasture: She'd jump from one

pasture to the other. I took her to my daughter's place and said, 'maybe she'll stay in your pasture,' but she didn't. My daughter's neighbors would come tell her that her horse was out of the pasture. Then, my daughter would get on her bike to chase *Amore*, but the horse would usually already be half way back home and then jump back in her own pasture. Unfortunately, things went wrong one time, and *Amore* ended up with her leg in a fence. Her leg swelled up really big, so the sale didn't go through. Fortunately, she wasn't ever really lame, but the leg never completely returned to normal. Maybe I can find a good rider for her and get her in-foal at the same time. She can jump phenomenally, and I dare to say that she's better than *Heartbreaker*. Even if I raise the cups to the top of the standards, she doesn't have any trouble.

"Of course, *Heartbreaker* is also a top sporthorse and a unique one. I always held my breath when I watched him over the really big jumps; that's when I really wanted to call *Henk Nijhof* and say that he should stop using him as a sporthorse. After all, jumping a horse that high is definitely risky, and *Heartbreaker* would be much more important to jumper breeding standing at stud. *Amore* and *Heartbreaker*'s elasticity and intelligence are established in the entire line. Besides *Amore*, I have a yearling named *Charity*, who's also very good."

Orchidee

The pieces of *Heartbreaker*'s story started coming together back when *Wiepke van de Lageweg* and *Hans de Groot* bought the mare *Orchidee*. She was a very modern mare for her time, with a high percentage of Thoroughbred blood from her sire *Uppercut xx* as well as from her grandsire on her dam's side, *El Gaucho xx*. *Meinte Jensma*: "Wiepke did a lot of business with *Bouke Lodewijks*, who lives in *Franeker*. *Lodewijks* bought the stallion *Silvano* at the auction after the Stallion Selection. He was a horse that needed a little blood. *Silvano* was bred to *Orchidee*, which was a good combination because that mare had enough blood. The match produced *Bacarole* in 1983, *Heartbreaker*'s dam. I happened to be crazy about *Silvano*'s bloodlines, especially *Le Mexico*--a stallion that could jump well and passed on that talent. He was also a stallion that anyone could ride, and he passed on a good temperament."



Heartbreaker's KWPN approved son *Upgrade*.

In 1988, *Bacarole* was bred to *Nimmerdor* for the second time, a match that produced *Heartbreaker*. Given *Jensma*'s interest in *Le Mexico* blood, he went to look at *Heartbreaker* when the colt came up for sale. *Jensma* recalls: "It was autumn, and *Heartbreaker*'s owner, *Nieuwhof*, lived in a clay soil region. There were a couple of big tractor tracks on his land that were full of rain water. *Heartbreaker* jumped over them with so much style that I knew right away he was a good one. I wanted to see him jump again. The second time, he jumped over the tracks even more spectacularly than the first, so I bought him. I immediately called *Henk Nijhof* and said that I had a good *Nimmerdor*. I brought *Heartbreaker* to jump at *Henk*'s place, and when he saw him, he really liked the stallion and bought a 50% share in him."

A Lion in Belgium

Heartbreaker grew up healthy and happy, and though he was born in the Netherlands, he debuted on Belgian soil. *Henk Nijhof* still remembers the reason for starting in Belgium: "At the time, there were a lot of *Nimmerdors* being presented for the KWPN Selection. *Heartbreaker* wasn't very big and didn't have much movement, so I really didn't think he had much chance of making it through the Selection and therefore decided not to present him. He couldn't trot, but he had an incredible jump. The Belgians are crazy about jumpers, so I thought he'd be in his element there. When *Heartbreaker* was approved in

Belgium, we needed a stallion station, so we got together with Louis Lenaerts.” Louis Lenaerts of Vrasene, Belgium is a stallion owner to this day and has good memories of Heartbreaker: “He was a great horse, lively on the ground but also very well-behaved and kind. In his training sessions, he was agreeable and obedient, but in the ring, he turned into a lion that wanted to jump everything. He’s indelibly stamped in my mind as the most brilliant jumper, a stallion of the highest quality. Every show was a party. Heartbreaker won the hearts of all the Belgians; they looked at him longingly, and he was his own best advertisement as a breeding stallion.

“First, Johan Lenssens rode Heartbreaker, and then Grant Wilson, who was our resident rider at the time. Grant won a lot with Heartbreaker and even wept when the stallion left. Of course, our highlight with him was placing at the World Championships for Young Jumpers at Zangersheide, where he jumped fantastically. In Lanaken, he placed fifth as a six-year-old and fourth as a seven-year-old.”

“Heartbreaker was a breeding stallion at my station for five years, from age three through seven. I never regretted buying a share in him because I felt there was no risk involved. He came from such a good line and made a great impression as a jumper—and he proved me right. I do, however, greatly regret that he’s gone, but oh well, that’s how things go sometimes. Heartbreaker has been very important to the Belgian breeding industry, and he’s an excellent fit with our massive mares. His daughters are very popular broodmares here because they also produce good offspring, ones that are brilliant, extremely keen, and ‘allergic to wood.’ I’m still a Heartbreaker fan; in fact, his son Toulon is at our station, and he may be as good as his sire!”

In the Sport

In Brussels, Heartbreaker won the prestigious stallion jumping competition as a six-year-old and became a household name. People offer good money for good horses, and that was certainly true for Heartbreaker. Nijhof: “I wanted to present the stallion to the KWPN myself and bought the remaining share in him together with the Bosch brothers, Mr. Hamerlinck, and Mr. Lenaerts. Heartbreaker was brought to the Netherlands, and Peter Geerink became his rider,



Toulon is a Belgian bred and approved Heartbreaker son and an international Grand Prix jumper, shown by Hubert Bourdy.

which went well from the start. Peter won a lot with him, but when Heartbreaker injured a tendon, we decided it was enough. In our eyes, Heartbreaker had more than proved himself. He jumped fantastically and did well internationally. He was a wonderful horse in the ring and had a super honest character, but he was definitely no ‘dead head.’ You often see top horses that are ‘special,’ and that was certainly true of Heartbreaker--no horse for an amateur. He was keen in his work and a real fighter; he never stopped at a fence.

“The stallion passes on his talent to his foals. Eight out of ten Heartbreaker offspring like to work and eagerly go to the jumps. However, that keenness is also a bit of a disadvantage because they can do too much over a jump; they jump with so much explosive energy that they don’t always use themselves efficiently. Actually, they’re very marketable horses, but because they’re overzealous they’re often asked for too much too soon. A Heartbreaker has to be trained gradually to get the longest enjoyment from the horse.”

In 2000, Heartbreaker competed in Aachen, where he represented himself well as a breeding stallion. He finished fourth with Peter Geerink in the saddle, the best performance ever by a KWPN-stallion. Geerink has good memories of his time with the stallion: “Heartbreaker is definitely the best horse I’ve ever had--I’ll never get another one like him. Everything about him was special; he had a nice temperament, but you couldn’t use force with him. He had a real personality, and if you treated him with respect, he’d do anything for you. At the time, he had to deal with a lot because combining breeding and sport is difficult and very demanding. At one point, he was breeding a lot and competing at FEI level, so he was at his maximum. And he did it all because of his character. Of course, that’s an essential quality for a good sporthorse. I also see that in his offspring because I’ve had several of them at my barn. Heartbreaker was also extremely careful. I believe in the beginning he jumped 85 consecutive courses with no faults!”

