

# Numero Uno: Destined to be a Winner and Sire of Approved Stallions

**HIS NAME INHERENTLY BRINGS CERTAIN EXPECTATIONS WITH IT. THESE WERE FIRST MET WHEN NUMERO UNO—WHO RECENTLY BECAME KEUR—RECEIVED REMARKABLY HIGH SCORES AS A THREE-YEAR-OLD IN THE PERFORMANCE TEST, INCLUDING 9S FOR PUSH AND THE CANTER. NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE WAS THE TOP STALLION OF HIS BIRTH YEAR.**

Of course, all eyes were on him, given his good bloodlines. His sire, Libero H, is considered one of the top jumper sire, as a respectable number of his offspring are successful international showjumpers. Furthermore, he sires five KWPN approved Stallions, Icoon, Ustinov, his full brother Nijinski, Niagara and of course Numero Uno.

Jolanda, Numero Uno's dam, boasts equally impressive bloodlines. Her Holstein pedigree includes well-known names, such as Lord Calando and Farnese. A dash of English Thoroughbred blood by way of the famous sire Ladykiller xx is evident in both Jolanda's and Libero H's pedigrees. Martien van Deursen of De Rips in Brabant province bought Jolanda as a foal: "She was in a

pasture with nine other foals, and I really liked her, she was the best one. Jolanda stayed in pasture until she was 2 ½ years-old, and then I took her to the mare test. She was one of the better mares in the test, scoring 85 points for free jumping. After she passed the PROK exam, she received her Dutch papers. She went to the Central Keuring as a three-year-old and was in the top group; however, she was not eligible for the Champion title because of her foreign lineage. She did, however, earn provisional keur and subsequently received the keur predicate because she successfully passed the mare test." Then, she was ready for breeding. From the start, Van Deursen was very enthusiastic about Libero H: "But I was initially a bit

concerned about conformation. I was afraid that he'd be too classic for Jolanda, but I decided to go for it."

## Jump Out of the Pasture

Jolanda was soon in foal and threw a healthy colt in the spring of 1995. Van Deursen named him Norton. He remembers the colt well, "He had a very nice temperament; he'd always come to you. What's more, he was good-looking. However, he had a quirk: You couldn't keep him inside a fence. He'd always jump out and run down the road. Fortunately, we lived on a dead-end street. When he had seen enough, he'd jump back into the pasture as easily as he jumped out!" The colt's good temperament was no coincidence: His dam, according to Jolanda's owner, was a very obedient and affectionate horse.

Van Deursen: "At the time, she was in foal with Norton (who was later renamed Numero Uno), and I was in regular contact with Hans Horn. He asked me to let him know when the foal was born. Numero Uno was born on a Friday, and I called him the next day. The Horn family was at a show that weekend and couldn't come until Monday. Coincidentally, Paul Hendrix stopped by on Sunday. He thought Numero Uno was the most beautiful foal he'd ever seen by Libero H and wanted to buy him immediately; however, I promised Hans first choice. Hans came on Monday morning, and we settled things right away." For Van Deursen, out of sight did not mean out of mind: "I've continued to keep track of the stallion. I always thought that Numero Uno was very impressive in the ring because even though he was bred as a jumper he can move like a dressage horse."

After Numero Uno, Van Deursen bred his mare a second time to Libero H. "Jolanda's second



Dirk Caremans

Numero Uno with Marco Kutscher. "Back when I was riding him, we seldom left a show without winning something," according to Kutscher.



*The approved stallion Van Gogh was the 2005 Overall Performance Champion in Ermelo.*



*Tygo is Numero Uno's oldest approved son. At the first show of the Stallion Competition, Tygo and Hester Klompmaker immediately made their mark by finishing first. The combination is now successfully showing internationally at 1.40m.*

foal was a filly, Olanda. I sold her to the Van Heel family in Dreumel. Jolanda's third foal was also a filly, Paloma, who was sold to a Swedish buyer at the Ermelo auction. I sold these fillies with the thought in mind that I could still get more foals out of Jolanda, and I would keep the best to continue my breeding operation," Van Deursen recalls. Unfortunately, as sometimes happens, fate intervened. "At the time, Jolanda was being ridden lightly by a professional. She tripped and broke her leg. She was operated on immediately in the clinic, which went well. However, things went wrong when she got up, and she had to be euthanized. It was very sad; she was only seven-years-old."

Although the elderly farmer has no more of Jolanda's offspring, he does have a half-sister of hers. "Jolanda was two-years-old when I bought her dam Feinschnitt. I bred several Voltaire foals out of her, almost all of which were sold at auctions. At the time, I had too many horses, so I ultimately sold Feinschnitt. She eventually ended up with Hans Horn. I still have her Zeus daughter Ramona, and I use her for breeding."

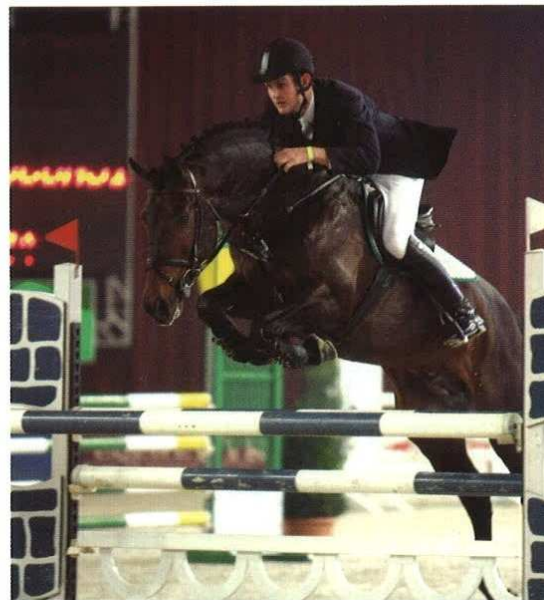
### Inspiring Company

The fact that Hans Horn still has Feinschnitt in his barn is testament to Numero Uno's good lineage. Horn: "Numero Uno's granddam is incredibly fit and healthy. Last year, she had a colt by Canturo at her side and a ET-colt by Ustinov out of a surrogate dam. She's now in foal to Ustinov again. I knew at the time that Mr. Van Deursen had two mares he wanted to breed to Libero H, but he also wanted to sell some horses. When he called to say that a foal was born, I quickly went to his place to take a look. I liked the foal immediately — beautifully

correct conformation, and plenty of blood. He was an alert foal with lots of presence. When he was several months old, I took him to 'De Meiboom' a professional training facility for young horses. With stablemates including Lupicor and Nairobi, who would later become approved stallions, and Nirfan, who would become an international show jumper, my colt was among good and inspiring company. He definitely had a good temperament, and starting him under saddle was easy. Initially, Henrik Ankacrona and Roger Linszen rode him; then Marco Kutscher started riding him." The Horn family asked German rider Marco Kutscher if he was interested in riding Numero Uno. Kutscher: "I tried him, and he seemed to be a nice horse. I didn't ride him for very long, just a few years, but I still have good memories of him. Numero Uno had a nice temperament: He was always cooperative and attentive. He gave his best in the ring and didn't know the meaning of the word 'quit.' At a certain point, he became more popular as a breeding stallion. It's not always easy to combine FEI level jumping and breeding; furthermore, his owners could earn more with him as a breeding stallion, so I stopped riding him." This pair's achievements include several World Cup competition victories, such as first place in the Speed and Handiness class in Verona; second place in the two-phase class in Vigo; second place in the two-phase class in Amsterdam; and of course, the wonderful winning ride in the 1.35 Knock-Out at the CSI-5\* in Zurich.

### Good Offspring

Numero Uno has met expectations not only in sport but also in breeding. Currently, six of his sons are KWPN approved breeding



*Viento Uno W was sold at the KWPN Select Sale. He successfully completed the performance test, where he received an 8.5 for his canter, technique, and ability.*

stallions. Tygo (out of Domine ster pref prest by Purioso) is the oldest of these. He finished second in the 2005 Stallion Competition final. In 2006, the black eye-catcher won the Young Stallion Competition final in Zwolle and finished second in the overall rankings. At the first show of the most recent Stallion Competition on December 4th in Hengelo, Tygo and rider Hester Klompmaker immediately made their mark in the very exciting jump-off by finishing clear in lightning-quick time and capturing first place. In the meantime, the combination is successfully showing internationally at 1.40m. Unaniem (out of Passivona ster pref by Voltaire) was approved a year later. He is showing successfully with rider Richard Kapteijn. In 2005, three Numero Uno sons were approved.



*Vincenzo was the Stallion Selection Champion of his birth year in 's-Hertogenbosch.*



*Warrant was registered last spring. He finished the performance test with the highest scores for jumping.*

Vincenzo was the Stallion Selection Champion in Den Bosch that year. Several months later, his half-brother Van Gogh became the Overall Performance Champion in Ermelo. The dark bay Viento Uno W was sold at the KWPN Select Sale. He successfully completed the performance test in Ermelo, where he received an 8.5 for his canter, technique, and ability. Warrant (out of Karanta keur pref prest by Nimmerdor) was registered as a breeding stallion last spring. He finished the performance test with the highest scores for jumping. Numero Uno not only produces good sons, he also sires quality daughters. A high percentage of these have already earned a predicate. Several well-known Numero Uno daughters are the elite mares Vivona, a full sister to Unaniem; Toscane (out of Norane keur by Indorado); and Tosca (out of Gerolia keur sport(jump) by Zortin), who recently finished second with Katharina Offel in the seven-year-

old division at the Arezzo CSI. Willemijn is also well-known and the only mare that scored more than 90 points in the IBOP last year. She became Champion last summer in North Holland and at the National Mare Keuring in the keur and elite mare division. Currently, a remarkably large number of Numero Uno offspring are breaking into international show jumping, such as Take Off ster PROK (out of Odile sport(jump) by Indoctro) with Eric Lamaze; Tamino (out of Larianne by Farmer) with Marc Houtzager; and Tattoo (out of Never Mind keur by Lux Z) with Maikel van der Vleuten. Tia Maria (out of Iregina keur sport(jump) prest s.Nimmerdor) won the final in the six-year-old jumper division in Geesteren with Wesley Heijdens in the saddle. The same combination won the 1.35m in Zelhem and finished first in the six-year-old/seven-year-old division at the Dresden CSI. Tyson (out of Kicky Queen elite

sport(jump) by Voltaire) is another striking Numero Uno offspring. This winner of the 2006 IAN Trophy final and the VION Cup in the seven-year-old division recently captured first place at the CSI in Giubiasco, Switzerland with rider Roger Linssen.

### Living Memories

Numero Uno is still at Horn's facility in Oud Ootmarsum, where he is one of the favorite horses. Horn: "Now that his offspring are fully involved in the sport, we can see that he consistently passes on a number of his qualities. He is always nice to ride—very attentive and watchful, and with very good balance. He passes on his temperament, good canter, extreme carefulness, and drive to his offspring. I think it's wonderful that he passes on so much from Libero H both in sport and in breeding, and therefore keeps reminding us of this unique stallion!"



Karin van der Meul

*The Numero Uno daughter Willemijn was the only mare to earn more than 90 points in the IBOP test. Last summer, she became CK Noord Holland Champion and the National Mare Selection Champion in the keur and elite division.*

### Offspring

Numero Uno's record includes 1431 breedings. Of his 57 sons presented for approval through October 2007, 13 advanced to the second round viewing, and 6 were ultimately approved for KWPN breeding. Numero Uno's 138 KWPN registered daughters include 54 ster mares, 10 keur mares, and 9 elite mares. His offspring are distinguished by their beautiful conformation and often have a nice forehead and an attractive head. The croup, however, is sometimes straight but long, and the hind legs are often sickle-hocked. These conformation traits are passed on mainly by Numero Uno's grandsire Landgraf I. Numero Uno offspring are further noted for their trot and canter, which are big, supple, strong, and balanced. Currently, a remarkably large number of Numero Uno offspring are breaking into international show jumping, and his national level jumper offspring are doing well, too. They give Numero Uno the high sport index of 146 with 93% reliability.