

THE



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# HANOVERIAN

*His name is a prospectus: With staccato Stakkato himself and his descendants jumped into the heights of international jumper competition. Now the bay son of Spartan was awarded the title 16<sup>th</sup> Hanoverian Stallion of the Year.*

*By Gerd-D. Gauger*

**D**o you still remember? Stallion licensing 1995. The stallions out of Celle's 1<sup>st</sup> lot march into the arena in their best attire to be awarded a premium. Only one did not. A bay, which had already impressed with his free spirit during the previous days, enters the arena with an unruly mane without braids. Just like the majority of the licensing visitors the owners did not count on this barely 163 cm tall, somewhat square stallion to receive a ticket to the state stud. His name will be Stakkato, the state stud manager announces. He seems brave to give this youngster such a vigorous name. But then the saying "Nomen est omen" proves itself. With staccato Stakkato jumps himself soon up to heights, where the best of the international competitors romp. And now he is even the 16<sup>th</sup> Hanoverian Stallion of the Year.

1982 a grey colt is born in Olpe by U. Jungbecker-Rumpf. He is by Servus out of a dam by Gotthard/Steinpilz xx. Soon thereafter Andreas Mundt from Petershagen passes through with Hans Joachim Köhler looking for stallion prospects. They look, they buy. The grey becomes licensed, is named Spartan, successfully completes the stallion performance test in Adelheidsdorf (122,31, 10<sup>th</sup>



STAKKATO  
SHOWED  
IT TO ALL

# EDITORIAL



With the conclusion of the year 2007 an employment of long standing is coming to an end for me. An employment, in which I was allowed to perceive my profession as my hobby. More than half of my lifetime so far I spent together with my family in Celle and Adelheidsdorf, where the breeding station and the Hanoverian breeding area became our home.

One of the reasons for this was a good relationship with a motivated family of employees as well as several contacts and relations with people, who feel connected to the breeding of riding horses and to the State Stud and who bestowed this bond unto me. For that I am very grateful. I would like to express my very special gratitude to the multitude of our loyal Hanoverian breeders and the governing body and representatives, which they selected.

When I was assigned the responsibility for the State Stud in 1979, the sport of horses had more and more developed into a sport for the general public and the numbers of coverings had reached its peak after the painful decline in the late forties and fifties. The unavoidable adjustment of the breeding goal to a "just-riding horse" meant that an outlet for non-suitable sport horses was omitted. The former need for working horses, which did not require the same rideability, had guaranteed a market for horses with less aptitude for riding. Henceforth especially in times of an economic recession, as it temporarily occurred for instance in the beginning of the eighties, the immediate dependency of horse breeding from general economic situations and its resulting prosperity is clearly revealed. Under these rather difficult circumstances the breeding of horses in Germany as well as the sport became most successful, while Hanover assumes the top position in the rankings.

In retrospect I declare that I was granted the opportunity to assist in a decisive capacity on governing bodies of the Hanoverian breed during a time of unforeseeable developments in the breeding of horses and in the horse sport, in biotechnology, electronic data processing and in rapid structural changes within agriculture and horse rearing operations.

I greatly enjoyed my advisory co-operation on the board and in breeding book panels of our association as well as the great responsibility of being a member of the show committees and of being the selected representative on the licensing commission. In this connection I wish to express my special gratitude to the respective presidents and breeding managers as well as their representatives for our relationship, which was always based on mutual respect and trust.

I shall maintain the relationship to the Hanoverian breed with all its members as well as to all friends and breeders far beyond the borders of our country and the association from an appropriate distance. It is my greatest wish that my successor may have a successful hand and that all of you may receive him with the same support and confidence as you did onto me all these years. With best wishes to the benefit of the Hanoverian breed and my warmest personal greetings,

Dr. Burchard Bade  
(State Stud Manager Celle 1979 – 2007)

out of 56) and disappears across the big ocean. Family Himmelmeyer in Canada (later in the United States) sends him into competition, under son Sascha he competes in jumper classes at the Grand Prix level. 1992 he is back.

On the second Hanoverian private stallion show in Verden Andreas Mundt presents him. He once had sold him with the caveat that he could buy the stallion back, when he is retired from his performance career. Spartan becomes the show's eye-catcher. What a horse! Silver coat, big, open eye, powerful push-off, then the combination of two important bloodlines (Senator and Goldfisch II), which in spite of high popularity slowly but steadily become rarer.

The first years of breeding, however, pass rather uneventfully. Spartan does not breed many mares and not the best ones either. He is quite the personality, stands quietly on the trailer next to mares, when on the way to a horse show, but on the way to the breeding shed he turns into a macho-man. "To him there always were two different movies," Anja Mundt explains, "he was very sensible, intelligent and well-behaved. He knew very well, however, the difference between competition and breeding stallion." 1992 he breeds the mare Pia by Pygmalion/Goldstern. Since years August Meyer brings his mares to Mundt to be bred, last but not least because A. Mundt often buys the newborn foals the following year. They already had good experiences in competition with descendants from Pygmalion by Patras/Absatz (breeder: H.-J. Köhler), who was licensed as a four-year old in Verden and impressed in his performance test with working willingness, best basic gaits, elastic jumping style and high rideability (total index 124,66). Pia, whose dam Goldfeder had already produced a talented jumper for Verden's auction program, successfully completed her mare performance test with a dream score of 10,0 for free-jumping. She was also victorious in jumper horse classes at the L-level. They do not hesitate. Pia changes ownership on Mundt's farm. Actually August Meyer and Family Mundt should share the honor of being the breeders of Stakkato. That, however, has never been a reason for disagreement between Uenzen and Petershagen... Stakkato grows

Andreas Mundt and breeder August Meyer were happy about their „Stallion of the Year“.

up with other colts from Mundt. In 1995 this creates more confusion in the life of the youngster. The licensing in Verden and the Trakehner licensing in Neumünster take place almost at the same time. As the time approaches, Andreas Mundt decides to accompany two Trakehner stallions to Neumünster, while his wife Anja takes Pia's son by Spartan to Verden. He makes up with his high-set neck for the lack of lines. The bay gathers points in the walk and in his energetic, high, rather relaxed movement. In the free-jumping chute he is at the top of his class. Gotthard blood from both sides of his pedigree – through Spartan and through Pia – shows its effect over poles: ability to judge the take-off, reflex, a quick leg – all is there. Unfortunately he is not Adonis, and that is why only a very few visitors took notes. When he is licensed, Anja Mundt is very pleased. In the barn she says, “Take the braids out and put the blanket on.” The braids are just undone, when suddenly someone came around the corner calling, “Number 91 to the award ring!” There he walks in seventh position of Celle's purchases. When the news from Neumünster came over that one of Mundt's stallions there became reserve champion, and the other made it into the premium lot. A success story all the way around!

Jumper rider Eva Bitter from Bad Essen visits Adelheidsdorf on the day of the guesstrider test during the performance test in 1996 (total index 131,35/5<sup>th</sup>/35, dressage: 110,92/9<sup>th</sup>, jumping: 144,39/1<sup>st</sup>). Heinrich-Wilhelm Johannsmann accompanies her, who had heard of the phenomenal jumping ability of Spartan's son, who might possibly be for sale. Eva Bitter, “Stakkato was not really the typical stallion, but I liked him all right.” First the stallion stays in Celle, competes in jumper suitability classes under Joachim Winter, until he goes to Bad Essen at the end of his fourth year.

And then Stakkato and Eva Bitter start on their steep ascending career path: As a five-year old Stakkato becomes Bundeschampion in Warendorf, as a six-year old he misses the title by 0,03 seconds, at the age of seven he participates at his first international



Grand Prix in Frankfurt, third place. He participates, he wins or places in Great Prizes (among other places also in Aachen; Eva Bitter, “Possibly my most beautiful experience with him”) and Nation Prizes, always on the qui vive, careful, brilliantly translating his natural ability into action. 2003 he wins with Eva Bitter the German Championship for female jumper riders. “He consistently improved,” his rider says with satisfaction. “All that was said about him: he did not have it in him, possibly only an ephemera. But he proved himself. Always super honest, even when he returns from Celle after the breeding season from February to April, no stallion behavior. His attitude is perfect, he just is a first-rate horse!”

This attitude he passes on to his offspring. So the already internationally successful Sambuca (breeder: R. Schulz), at present Eva Bitter's number one, since Stakkato is resting at the moment to allow the healing of a small wound. The licensed sire Saint Amour (breeder: A. Feldmann) under Eva Bitter is well received on international level, just as Sammy Mad Jo (breeder: J. Meyer), who was first ridden by Frank and Markus Merschformann and now by Maria Lütgenau, or the mare Rückenwind (breeder: K.-H. Bentrup) under Holger Wulschner, after having been carefully built up by Peter Jacob Thomsen. In the Netherlands Ukato (breeder: Breeding Farm Lewitz) creates a stir. Latest success story: Third place at the World Championships for young jumper horses in Lanaken. This is only a small handful of Stakkato's treasures. The sire, who is obviously listed in the Hanoverian

Program of jumper horses, himself has life-earnings in the amount of around 210,000.00 Euros, his descendants, 188 of which are registered as competition horses including twenty-one, which compete at the S-level, earned about 160,000.00 Euro.

Over the years Stakkato not only became more impressive from his stature and his outline, he also proves himself as a most important producer. His breed value jumping lies at exorbitant 169 points. In stallion or mare performance tests nobody is surprised any longer, when Stakkato descendants receive a 10 for jumping. Style (169) and ability (159) of tested mares show that the security of Stakkato's heredity with respect to jumping is excellent. The walk, which he himself proved at his licensing, is the best gait of his offspring, whose rideability is excellent.

793 descendants are registered in Hanover, including 107 broodmares (26 state's premium mares). Seventeen sons were licensed, eleven are entered into the Stallion Book I. 45 Stakkato foals, one broodmare and fourteen riding horses sold through Verden's auction program.

Before Stakkato there were fifteen other Hanoverian Stallions of the Year. There has not been one out of the S-line. With his selection the valuable blood of Semper Idem receives a fresh impetus. “Beauty, charm and elegant movement are the main ingredients,” Hans Joachim Köhler says 1975 while looking at the refining blood from Trakehnen. Adding ‘phenomenal jumping ability’ and we have what now stands in front of us: Stakkato!