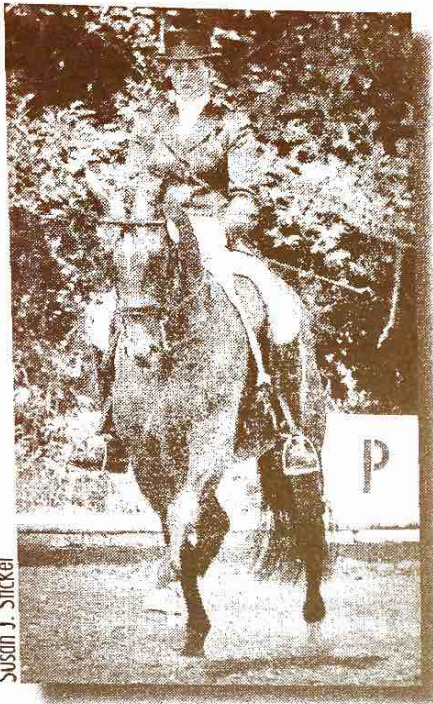
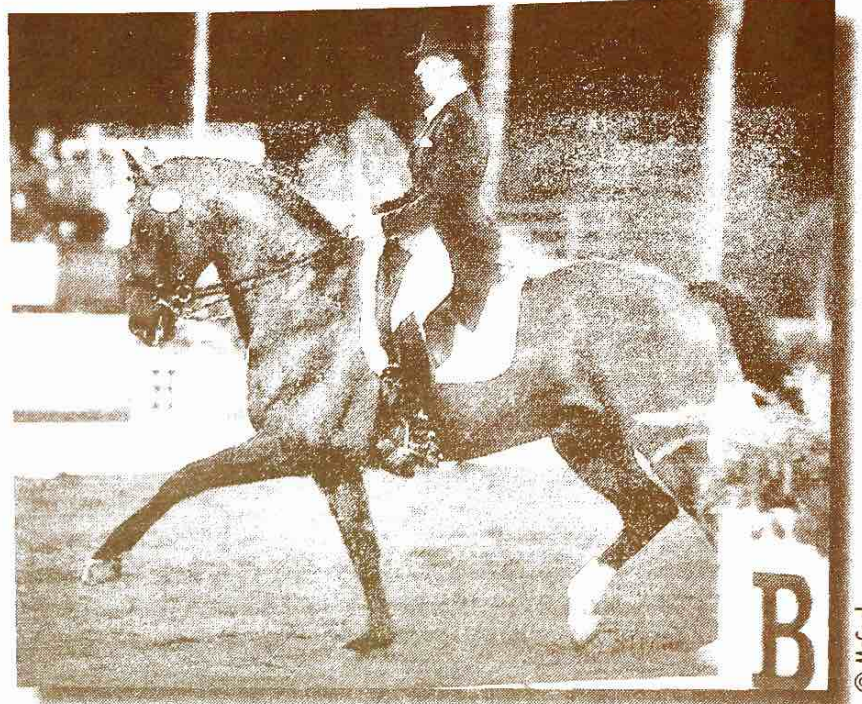


Northwest-Bred Hungarian Horses Shine

Top Placements in USDF Breeder Awards



Susan J. Stichel



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HS Wistar (Wishes and Dreams x H. Marado), owned by Charlene Summers of Summervale Farm in Roy, Washington.

For a period of five years, from 2001 to 2005, Charlene Summers of Summervale Farm, Roy, Washington ranked first among breeders with the most Horse of the Year (HOY) placings in dressage and—during the sixth year—ranked 2nd in 2006. Her horse's average score of 68.44% ranked above such major breeders as Jean Brinkman (Valhalla Farms) and DG Bar Ranch, as well as many European breeders.

Charlene's HS Wistar (Wishes and Dreams x H. Marado) was also in second place among horses with most HOY placings in those six years. Wishes and Dreams (Oldenburg), who was also bred by Charlene, was the sire with the eighth-most HOY offspring.

For those same years, the statistics about the Breeder's Cup finalists (in-hand classes—the sporthorse equivalent of halter classes) show that 21 Hungarian horses made it to finalist status, and four Hungarians became reserve or grand champions. Val Sivertson's Ohop Valley Hungarian Horse Farm, of Eatonville, Washington ranked seventh

among the Breeder's Cup contenders, behind such enormous operations as Iron Spring Farm, who had 17 finalists, compared to Val's 14, which must represent close to half her foal crops for those years! Her H. Aldas (*Shandor, Shagya, x H. Nagyaszony) was among the 17 mares who have produced three or more reserve or grand champions. Chris Bredeson and Henrietta Morey's HS So Rare (Rubin [Trak] x H. Marado) was among the 35 stallions who have sired seven or more finalists.

H. Marado (M. Brado x H. Soska), Charlene's foundation mare bred by Margit Besseney and M. Brado (Brazado [TB] x M. Dore) bred by Judith Gyurky, both also appeared on the lists of most successful dams and sires.

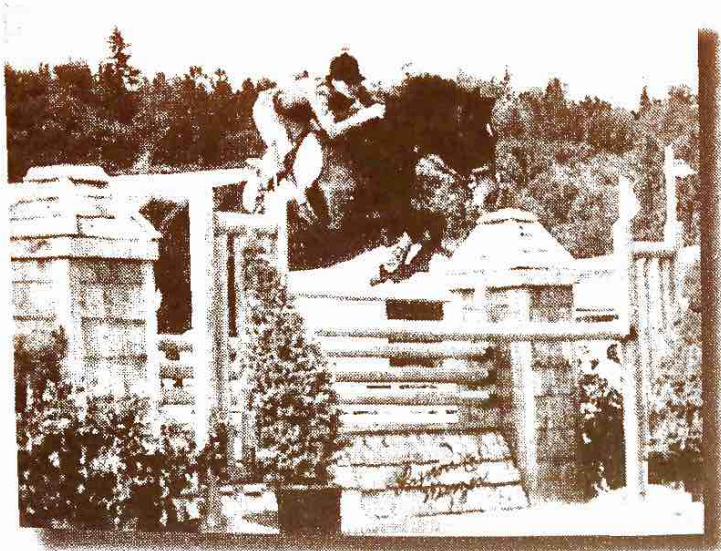
What are the odds against these honors? If you aren't an experienced dressage rider yourself, you may not realize how difficult it really is to compete in the top echelon. Here, I'll play with the numbers to try to help illustrate how phenomenal these successes really are.

Over 15,000 horses competed in recognized dressage shows in 2006. More than a third of them competed at Training level.

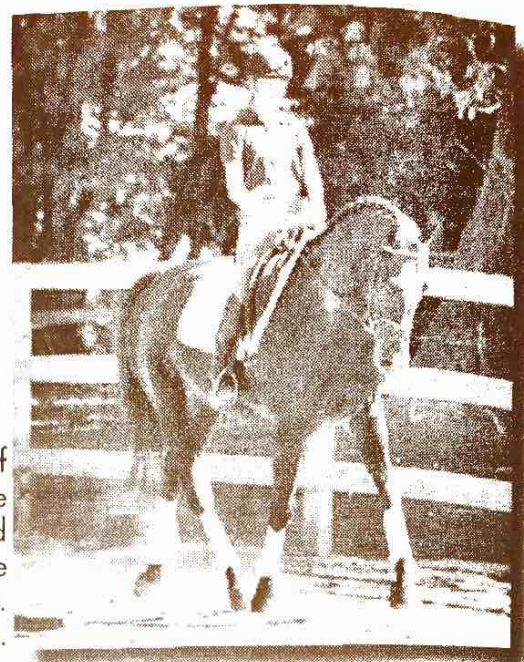
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Belynda Moore

(Continues Page 24)



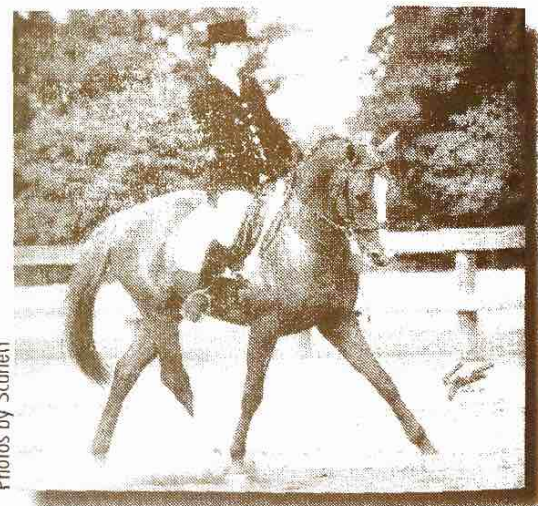
H. Marado (M. Bradox x H. Soska), Summervale Farms foundation mare, bred by Margit Besseney, appears on the lists of most successful dams.



H.S. So Rare (right) is owned by Chris Bredeson and Henrietta Morey of Liberty Farms Sport Horse Company and stands in Olympia, Washington. He was ranked the second top dressage breeding stallion in 2006 by the United States Equestrian Federation and holds the Champion Northwest Sport Horse Dressage Breeding Sire title for the years of 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. So Rare also holds the title of NWSHBA Champion Hunter Breeding Sire.



H. Aldas (left) and H. Randevu (right) are owned by Valerie Sivertson of Ohop Valley Hungarian Horse Farm in Eatonville, Washington.



Photos by Scarlett

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We know that most of those Training level horses will never move up past First level. Some lack talent; some will be injured or become unsound. Most owners lack the time, expertise, and/or money to compete past First level. Only a few trainers are capable of taking a horse to FEI levels (above Fourth level—Prix St. Georges through Grand Prix). The number of horses competing at I-2 (the highest level at which HS Wistar has placed in the HOY competitions thus far) last year was only three percent of the number of horses competing at Training level! That is 32 to 1 odds against even making it to I-2. Having gotten that far, Wistar then had to compete with 201 other horses at I-2, attaining the eighth highest average in the nation at that level, putting him in the top four percent of that group. Crunching a few more numbers (four percent of three percent), that puts him in the top two-tenths of one percent of the dressage horses up through I-2 in the USA. That's over the 99th percentile.

Even at First level, where H. Randevu, bred and owned by Val Sivertson of Ohop Valley Hungarian Horse Farm, shone in 2006, he had to beat out more than 5,200 horses to earn his HOY award! That put him well into the top 1% of First Level

horses in the nation. About 80% of the horses who compete at Training level go on to compete at First level, but less than half of those go on to Second Level, as both Randevu and HS Warado did in 2007.

Finally, looking at the origins of the top horses over the six year period, Wistar (ranked second for most HOY placings over those six years) was the highest-ranked American-bred horse, and one of only two American-bred horses in the top 10. The horse who edged him out of the top position was a European-bred, already competing at Grand Prix. All the other horses ranked below HS Wistar.

I could determine exactly how many horses competed over that six year period, but if we make a conservative estimate of 30,000 (just double the number who competed in the single year 2006), and subtract 500 for a likely number of horses competing at Grand Prix, that would make Wistar the highest ranked of roughly 29,500 dressage horses competing below Grand Prix! Next time you're having trouble sleeping, instead of counting sheep, try counting dressage tests!

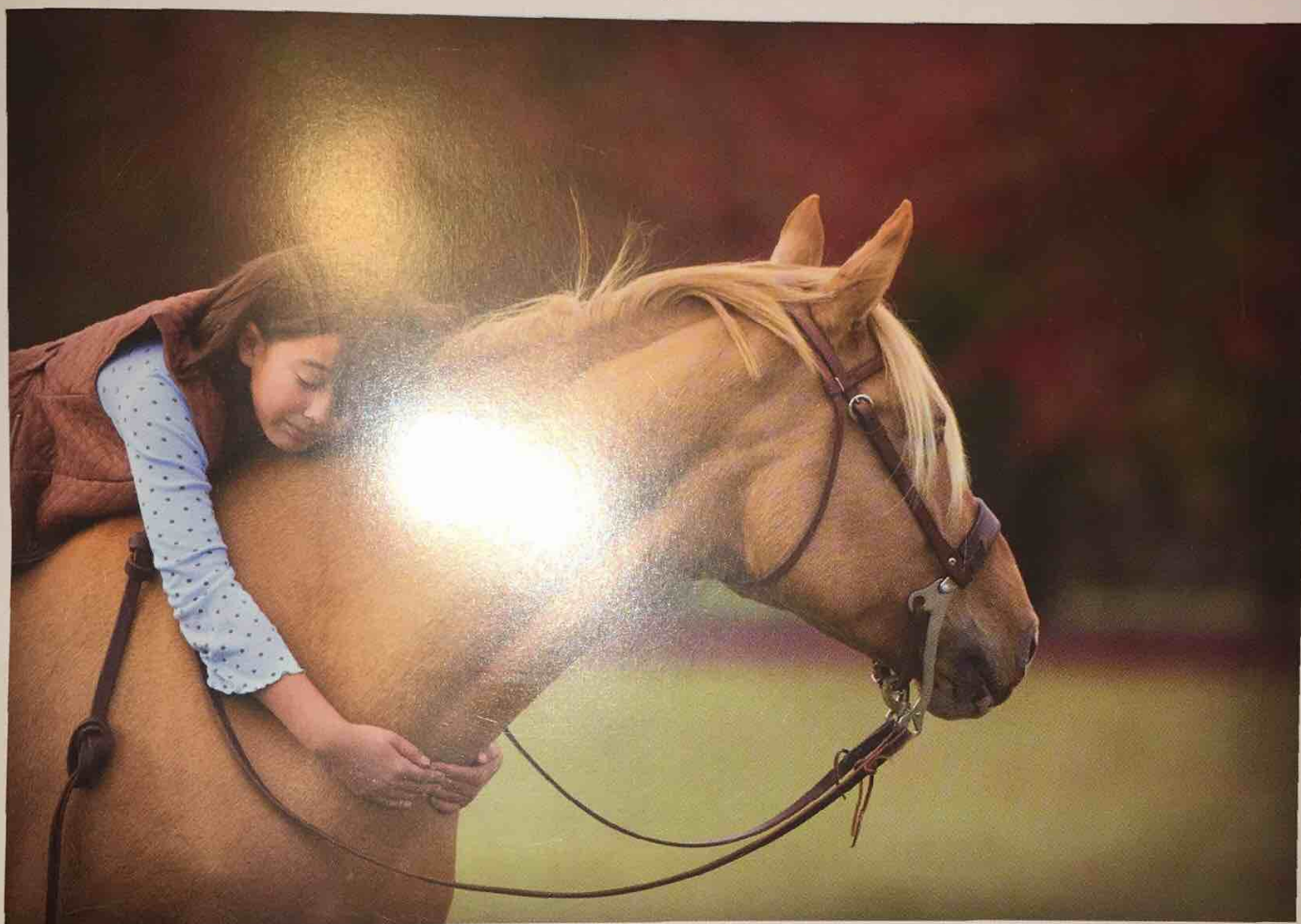
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Top Placements in USDF Breeder Awards



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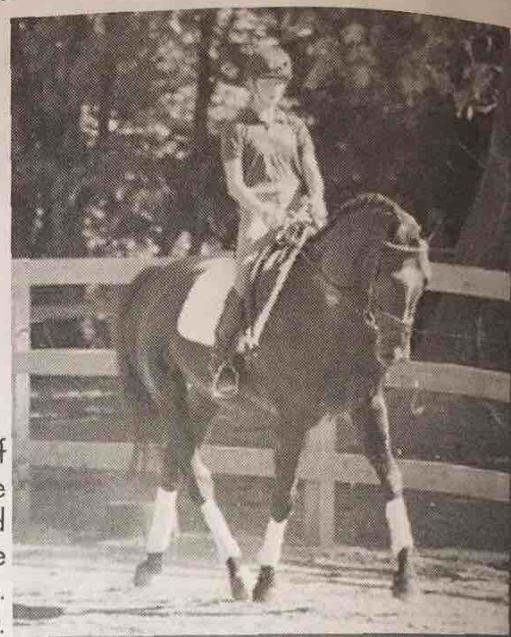
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