



Born Famous

Some of horse sport's biggest stars have progeny following the same path.

BY KIMBERLY LOUSHIN AND MOLLIE BAILEY

Abbey Road (Quinar—SRF Dragonfly, Landwind) is following in her mother's footsteps, winning in the 6-year-old jumper division at the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival (Fla.).

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Breed "the best to the best" has long been a theory for creating stellar sport horses, but it's often hard to test with top mares—their competition careers leave them little time to produce offspring.

But we were able to catch up with some famous mares whose offspring have followed in their moms' sizeable hoofprints, and a few whose child stars are preparing to head down the same road.

SRF Dragonfly and April Moon, Abbey Road and Akuna Mattata

Carol Rosenstein's the first to admit that when it comes to breeding, she had more than her share of beginner's luck. A lot more.

Rosenstein and daughter Katie Polk originally turned down SRF Dragonfly

(Landwind—Monika, Lauriston) when they first saw her because she was too green to walk right into the junior ring with Polk. Their trainer, Leslie Steele, ended up buying the horse for another client, but a few years later Rosenstein bought her for Polk to show. When Polk headed to New York City to start a career in fashion, they gave the ride to Nicole Shahinian-Simpson. That pair would go on to tie for second in the trials for the 2008 Olympic Games (Hong Kong), represent the team in Nations Cup competitions overseas and make the shortlist for the 2008 Olympics.

During a break from competition in 2007, Rosenstein and Polk decided to breed SRF Dragonfly via embryo transfer. They chose fresh semen from Quinar (Quidam de Revel—Adele, Aloube Z) and enlisted the help of Pollyrich Farms in Solvang, Calif.





Before SRF Dragonfly and Nicole Shahinian-Simpson finished second in the 2008 Olympic Show Jumping Trials, that mare was bred through embryo transfer, which produced three fillies, who are now all winning in the show ring. MOLLY SORGE PHOTO

“They called me three days later and said, ‘You have four embryos. We’ve been doing this 29 years and never seen more than two,’” she recalled.

Three of those embryos advanced to full term and yielded a trio of fillies born within a week of each other, which Rosenstein dubbed “The Triplets.”

The Hanoverian Society dictated that their names should start with the letter A. April Moon was easy to name—she was born on a full moon in that month. Rosenstein has a special interest in music (she’s the president of Together Again Productions, which specializes in music-based videos and television specials), which led to the names for the other two fillies: Abbey Road and Akuna Mattata.

April Moon and Abbey Road have been taking turns earning 6-year-old jumper championship ribbons this season at the FTI Winter Equestrian Festival (Fla.) with Shahinian-Simpson up, and they currently sit first and second in the circuit standings. Akuna Mattata earned good ribbons in the 5-year-old division last year with Tobias Schoenleitner, and she’s joined Shahinian-Simpson at her Wellington-based Simpson Show Stables this year. They’ve been jumping clear in 1.15-meter classes, and Shahinian-Simpson plans

to move up to the 6-year-olds by the end of circuit.

April Moon looks most like her mom, with the same oversized ears (“We used to have Dragonfly’s bonnets custom made,” recalled Rosenstein), and all three have distinct styles.

“One’s a rubber ball, one floats over

the fences, and Akuna Mattata jumps the sky over every jump—she’s an overachiever,” said Rosenstein. “But all three jump great, and they’re all fast, careful and smart. I’m staggered with our beginner’s luck. I know that people have tried to breed for decades, and so often you put together two fantastic horses and get one that doesn’t want to do it.”

Akuna Mattata (Quinar—SRF Dragonfly, Landwind) was one of three foals born via embryo transfer from the same breeding. PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL ROSENSTEIN



Full sisters April Moon (left) and Abbey Road (right) grew up together, and now they take turns winning in the 6-year-old jumper ring. PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL ROSENSTEIN