

Havel and Family — Partial to Young Riders

By Timothy Holekamp

If you review the Summer 1989 AMERICAN TRAKEHNER you will find a stirring article about 15-year-old Darrah Alexander, daughter of Pittsford Trakehner's former farm manager/trainer, Karin Alexander. Darrah was given the job of helping to train a young mare named HAVEL (by Matador, out of Halbinsel by Tornado), imported as a 2-year-old by Henry Snyder and bred once to Kalluster, producing the later gelded HAVOR.

Darrah began showing Havel as a 5-year-old in Novice and Training level events and got her own start at serious competition thereby, even though she was only 13 years old. After a year off for Havel to have her foal, Darrah brought her out at Preliminary at Stoneleigh-Burnham Horse Trials, finishing ninth out of 25. Soon after that they won an Open Preliminary division at both the Wayne DuPage and the Genesee Valley Hunt Horse Trials, earning national accolades (1988 ATA Reserve-Champion at Preliminary eventing) and much attention.

Plans were made for the pair to move up, but veterinary misadventures and then illness of the farm owner led to Havel being first bred to Prinz Sokrates and then sold to me in foal. We were delighted to have her, especially after she produced a very handsome bay colt, whom we named HERZPRINZ.

Havel became sound, started our young son Terry off at Training level eventing, helped him earn his Pony Club "B" rating at age 14, and went on to "educate" all three of our daughters in the intricacies of jumping and competition. Along the way she was bred to Sam and Lucia Eidt's late stallion Garibaldi and produced the mare HERA (third in the ATA Futurity in 1998, ATA Training level eventing Horse of the Year in 2000). In July, she was the mount of 18-year-old Emily Holekamp in her successful attempt to earn her Pony Club "A" rating.

Havel has gone on to produce two

elegant Caprimond daughters (HURONIA and HONIG BROETCHEN), both of whom are expecting Windfall babies next year. Huronia placed sixth last May in the North American FEI Five-Year-Old Dressage Championship Finals in Chicago, the highest scoring mare and the highest scoring American-bred horse. Her sister, known as "Honey Buns" [*a pretty literal translation of the German name — Ed.*], is only four and is being trained by 16-year-old Tori Holekamp

Now, at 21, Havel has become old and creaky, but has a black two-year-old

daughter by Amethyst (HAFFLICHT) in the pasture and a new bay filly by Apache at her side. Whether or not this is the end of the line for her in the breeding game remains to be seen, but probably so.

Meanwhile, Havel's fine son Herzprinz has gone on to a useful life of his own. He ended up being sold to the young Canadian, Andrina Calder, whose early exploits on him earned her a special article in this magazine (see the 2001 Mare & Foal issue). Here is yet another young event rider who can identify a certain very special equine partner that has



Photo by Cealy Tetley

Herzprinz by Prinz Sokrates and Andrina Calder



Photo by Phelps Photography

Havel by Matador and Darrah Alexander in 1989

gotten her started well into the big leagues. Last summer Darrah Alexander began to notice Andrina and “Hank,” as he is known, and recognized some very interesting similarities. Here was another

er highly committed thirteen-year-old on a bay Trakehner horse, winning at Training level, looking like she was on her way up.

Darrah is now a very significant figure in the world of Advanced level eventing, short-listed last year for the USET team to go to Burghley CCI**** and Blenheim CCI*** in England, placing well at both Fair Hill CCI*** and Foxhall CCI*** in recent years. Unfortunately she does not presently have a Trakehner horse to compete. There is an opportunity for someone....

Andrina and Herzprinz have recently rocketed their way onto the Preliminary scene, as the youngest competitor entered and winning the Young Rider division at the Bromont CCI* in June (scoring second overall against all riders from a long list of big names). Of course, now all has been revealed, meaning the Havel – Herzprinz connection has been recognized by both young women, and they are marveling at the coincidence. Indeed, way back in 1989 Darrah’s mother said of Havel, “She thinks

she can fly.”

Last year Andrina and her coach, Darren Chiacchia, began telling folks that Hank “is a horse with springs on his feet.” To hear Darrah now remember her feelings about riding Havel is almost the same as listening to Andrina talk about her Hank.

And just in case you thought that this is enough about one mare line, last winter Andrina purchased Havel’s bay granddaughter HERACLEA (by Amethyst, out of Hera) from us. She, in turn just foaled yet another bay filly by Windfall. Watch for the amazing succession to continue as this unbroken chain of wonderful Trakehner horses find new youngsters to ride them and begin the road to stardom again and again.

[Editor’s note: Havel is one of the mares who, with her female offspring, has founded a distinct line in North America (T14N1a). It traces back to the Main Stud Trakehnen mare FATME (T14), her descendant HALENSEE (T14N) and Halensee’s daughter HYMNE (T14N1).]

