

MARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN STALLION

DEMONSTRATED BY THE FAMILY OF THE LEGENDARY „Ratina Z“

For several years the superior importance of the dam line got more and more attention of the sport horse breedership and the connected media. Latest highlight in this development of explanation is an article in one of the leading German Horse Magazines (Reiter Revue Nov. 2002), which explains the surplus value of the female line not only with the situation of the x and y chromosome (the female x chromosome is the biggest horse chromosome and carries much more genetic information as the male y chromosome, which is the smallest horse chromosome with in comparison few genetic information), but also with the mitochondria, which are cell organelles, which themselves carry genetic information. Most body cells contain up to 10,000 mitochondria, which are passed on to the foal almost only by the dam. These genetic information seem to contain especially performance related components like heart capacities, lungs capacities and so on. The results of molecular research are explaining the ongoing success of certain mare families over decades and supply the scientific proof for the unlimited importance of strict mare selection for the successful sport horse breeding, which was up to now only known in many areas by statistic numbers and good breeders instincts.

A useful demonstration of the most convincing kind is the mare line of „**Heureka Z**“, known for everybody through the legendary „Ratina Z“. Heureka Z was born 1960 out of the Holsteiner mare line 8145. Under Hermann Schridde she was one of the most successful international jumpers in the period 1969-71, where she had many wins in Hamburg, Aachen, Bruxelles, Vienna, Berlin and Noerten-Hardenberg. After having won the Grand Prix in Aachen and getting second place in the Hamburg Derby, she got sold to Leon Melchior, founder of the Stoeterij Zangersheide, who again could celebrate with her impressive success (for example winning the Grand Prix in Berlin) before making her a foundation mare in Zangersheide. Decades later now everybody can appreciate what invaluable favour Leon Melchior did for the entire international horse industry by building out of Heureka Z a widespread foundation line only comparable to the very best few of the leading mare families worldwide.

Following we only can give you a rough overview over the most important steps in the build-up process of that mare family, which is too complex to go into every detail:

Male offspring:

As stallion-mother Heureka Z started her career with the stallion **Goliath Z** (by Graf Gotthard Z), born 1975. This stallion proved himself in sport on international level, had at age 7 already won the Grand Prix of Zuidlaren and produced as stud as famous jumpers as Lord von Essene (David Gorla), Charisma Z (Leslie Howard) and Arisco J. Caroffna (Alvaro de Miranda Neto). The male lineage of Goliath Z is carried on by his son Grosso Z, for example known as the sire of Goldfever (Ludger Beerbaum) and Griseldi FHP (Ulrich Kirchhoff).

In 1979 Heureka Z brought with Alme Z the most important stallion **Ahorn Z**, which in context with this article deserves special attention. Ahorn Z is certainly well known as stallion producer and left more than 15 approved sons, for example Aktionaer, Alasca, Abraxis Z and Accord I and II. Accord II is with a jumping index of 163 points one of the most influencing stallions of the Holsteiner breeding right now. Besides that Ahorn Z is registered in the World Breeding Guide with 9 offspring competing in international show jumping.

Additionally the example Ahorn Z perfectly supports the basic message of this study, as his by far greater value shows up in the dam's lines he has produced. The well known international jumpers Concerto I (Leslie Howard), Lux Z (Jerry Smith), Mefa's Libero (Barbara Steurer), Indorado (Jur Vrieling), Cilton Z (Jos Lansink) and Billy (Elad Yanif) are all based on Ahorn Z dam lines, even the young KWPN-stallion Numero Uno carries Ahorn Z in the third generation.

A good example how powerful these dam lines can develop is the now reknown Holsteiner line 4303, where the basic mare Sanina brought with Ahorn Z the foundation mare Annina. While the family got much attention with sport horses like Antares, Aletto and Lascadell, Annina's daughter Kaja brought the Champion stallion of Holstein's stallion approval 2001, „Lake Bid“.

Annina's daughter Caprice (by Capitol I) went with the Bahle breeding farm to Canada in 1993 (see part „Romanze Z“), where at today's Okanagan Show Jumping Stables she brought already two licensed sons (Letkiss Z and Adonis Z) and several most impressive breeding and sport prospects. Two daughters of her demonstrate together with her already year by year with fascinating foals the carrying strength of the female line to the North American public, which watches amazed the fast build up of a complete foundation lineage bringing Ahorn Z's superb qualities back up on the table on a regular basis.

Female offspring:

Heureka Z left four daughters for breeding, which founded a whole dynasty of show jumpers.

1. The oldest daughter **Argentina Z** (by Alme Z, born 1977) with no doubt is the most important branch of the Heureka Z family. Argentina Z was only used for breeding and is legendary for her crosses with Ramiro Z. Her male offspring shows four approved sons, Rebel I Z (Ramiro Z), Rebel II Z (Ramiro Z), Rebel III Z (Ramiro Z) and Rock Z (Rebel I Z). The oldest son, **Rebel I Z**, is like before Ahorn Z a perfect example for the genetic dominance of the female line. After his first season in Zangersheide (producing for example „Interpolo Ready Z“) he was leased to Holstein in 1984 and 1985. During this period he produced the approved stallions Redfort, Rabanus and international jumper Rebella.

Remarkable and of much higher value however is the following generation of Rebel I fillies in Holstein. Many approved stallions and international jumpers carry the bloodline of Rebel I Z on the dam's side. Only a few examples of this are international jumpers Luxemburg (Walter Stein), Limited (Dirk Schroeder), Palestro v/d Begijnakker (Koen Vereecke) as well as the approved stallions Laurin Holstein, Dutch Capitol and Coronado.

Of course **Rebel II Z** as well deserves his share of attention with as famous offspring as the approved stallions Rabiatt Z, Rivaal Z, Ricardo Z and the jumper Robyn Z.

Besides that Argentina Z produced three fillies with Ramiro Z, which are making this lineage legendary:

The youngest **Renommee Z** (1987) had a splendid sport career and even participated in the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Ricardo Kierkegaard.

Roxan Z (1983) has been used for breeding only and is impressively proving, that she is passing on the heritage of the successful stock with her approved sons Freedom Z and Amateur Z as well as the jumpers Flash Z, Ramadam Z and Qroquant Z. Latest highlight Roxan Z's daughter Cayleigh Z with her second place in the World Championship for Young Horses (6 year old division) in 2002!

The oldest daughter **Ratina Z** is known to everybody as „the jumper of the century“. With Piet Raymakers and Ludger Beerbaum „the wonder mare“ won the World Cup Finals, the European Championships, the Grand Prix of Aachen, individual Olympic Silver, double Olympic Team Gold, Team Gold at the World Championships and twice team gold at the European Championships, just to name the highlights.

As mother Ratina Z is proving herself with her spectacular Son Rex Z (by Rebel I Z), who unfortunately died already in 2000 and with her daughter Calipa Z, which again was only used for breeding and produced as successful horses as Limbo Z, Rabiatt Z, Hans Anders Z and Albatros Z. Latest highlight the new approved son Chicago Z (at stud in Zangersheide).

2. The second daughter **Ganetta Z** (by Graf Gotthard Z, born 1978) was first successful in sport herself before she went into breeding. She brought as successful horses as Firse Z (Furioso II), Amarillo Z (Aladin), Rebound Z (Rebel II Z) and Al Capone Z (Atlantus Z). Being a full sister of Goliath Z, her daughters deserve special attention in the future breeding.

3. The third daughter **Reurika Z** (by Ramiro Z, born 1982) brought the successful horses Samson Z, Lauriston Z, Fabricius Z and Abbigail Z. She became famous through her approved son Faust Z (Furioso II), who besides his spectacular sport career proves himself again with top class daughters and the approved sons Fortuin Z and Farcetto Z.

Through her daughter Cleopatra Z, Reurika Z established her own branch, latest Cleopatra Z's son Carpediem Z become third in the World Championship for Young Horses 2002 (6 year old division).

International jumper Leon Z (Leuthen I) of Uwe Vollmer is also a colt out of Reurika Z!

4. The fourth daughter **Romanze Z** (by Ramiro Z, born 1983) is getting especially important by the fact, that she as only one has left Zangersheide to the Bahle breeding Farm in Germany, with which she moved to Canada in 1993 to the newly established Stud Center Okanagan Show Jumping Stables Ltd.. Romanze Z, only used in breeding, had proven herself in Zangersheide with her reknown female offspring like Cobra Z, Cantate Z and Fiesta Z as well as the stallions Liberty Z and Adeptus Z. Cobra Z brought with Rex Z the actual stallion Roble Z, who is the only one carrying on the stallion tradition of this exceptional sire (Rex Z died in 2000).

At Okanagan Show Jumping Stables Romanze Z gets access to a wide range of completely different crosses, so she established a full foundation lineage of amazing caliber. While her sons Clou Z (by Cordano Z) in sport at the East Coast, and Luxury Z (by Le Sauvage), Canadian Champion Stallion 1997, convince everybody about the importance of the female line, her daughter Chablis Z (by Cordano Z) shines already with her licensed son Lupus Z (by Lucino Z) and her son of 2001 Locaro Z (by Louis). In 2000 Romanze Z fulfilled a special dream with her son Alkasar Z (by Alternative Z), which brings together the mare lines of Heureka Z and Gotin Z and carries all hope of being a future top sire.

As latest sensation Romanze Z's grandgrand-daughter Camanda Z (by Carthago Z) together with Ganeffa Z's daughter Courtisane Z (by Calvin Z) and Roxan's granddaughter Clarissa Z (by Caretano Z) were coming to Okanagan Show Jumping Stables in November 2002 joining „the North American army“ of this amazing foundation line.

Certainly this overview can only highlight the most important steps in the development of the famous Heureka Z-family, but it should be detailed enough to convince every ambitious and sophisticated breeder, that his best and safest investment would be to get a mare out of a comparable proven line.

Of course it is not possible to establish here a ranking of mare families, but as an assistance and on the base of experience gained in decades of breeding work and genetic exploration we would recommend for serious and engaged breeders to research for example for the following families as well:

- Fairness Z
- Gotin Z (showname Girl Z)
- Holsteiner lineage 776
- Holsteiner lineage 18 B 1
- Holsteiner lineage 730 B