Judgements in 2009 & 2010

Written by Barbara Frische, International FEIF Breeding Judge

Introduction & translation by Martina Gates



After two years of having some of our young stock judged by International FEIF breeding judge, Barbara Frische, it has become clear that the breeding in North America has started producing some very promising offspring. These young horse judgements were not just a great way for breeders to have their offspring assessed, but also a way to discuss their breeding ideas and goals with a breeding judge and other breeders. When we heard about some of these great youngsters, we begged Barbara to give us an overview of the most outstanding horses that she has seen in North America in the past two years.

In 2009, Barbara judged a large number of horses. She felt hesitant to report on 2010 because of the limited farms she was able to visit due to a severe car accident and resulting injury, which prevented her from traveling and judging. Consequently, the only horses she saw in 2010 were those in close proximity to her. Regardless, we felt it was important to talk about these few outstanding horses, because these are horses with great potential.

Barbara had her surgery in January, and she is already scheduled to judge young horses this summer. We wish her a full, and speedy recovery.

Young horses in 2009

In 2009, we saw a large number of horses of varying quality. Overall the US breeders need to be applauded. They put in a lot of effort, and some really tried to use highly judged breeding horses. Some breeders have also discovered that they have strong breeding mares, which are the "pearls" for every breeder. An example of such a pearl is Perla frá Stóru-Ásgeirsá, owned by Barb and Dan Riva of the well-known farm, Winterhorse Park, in Wisconsin. She is a daughter of honor stallion,

Porri frá Púfu, who is out of the famous Orri frá Púfu. One of her daughters, Pia from Winterhorse Park, has already been shown under saddle and made first prize. Pia is a charming and beautiful mare out of their stallion, Fjalar frá Bjargshóli. We saw two more impressive offspring out of Perla.

1. Loftfari from Winterhorse Park

One was the three-year-old stallion, Loftfari from Winterhorse Park, sired by Logi frá Skarði. He was an extraordinarily talented 4-gaited stallion, with high and wide movements, speed in gaits, and a tall frame with a good top line, strong joints and a very friendly character.

F: Logi frá Skarði (8.40)

FF: Hrafn frá Holtsmúla (8.56) FM: Remba frá Vindheimum (7.52) **M: Perla frá Stóru-Ásgeirsá (7.94**) MF: Þorri frá Þúfu (8.26) MM: Snör frá Stóru-Ásgeirsá (7.54)

2. Piltur from Winterhorse Park

The other young horse we saw out of Perla was the young stallion Piltur from Winterhorse Park. He was an elegant chestnut pinto, with lots of natural tölt, well balanced five gaits, and great action.

F: Fjalar frá Bjargshóli (8.24)

FF: Glaður frá Sauðárkróki (8.02) FM: Fenja frá Stóra-Hofi (7.88) **M: Perla frá Stóru-Ásgeirsá (7.94)** MF: Þorri frá Þúfu (8.26) MM: Snör frá Stóru-Ásgeirsá (7.54)

At Sólheimar farm in Vermont, breeders Sigrún Brynjarsdóttir and Jason Brickner showed us two good-looking Parker offspring.

3. Sól from Sólheimar

An attractive 5-gaited filly with clearly separated gaits, well raised, well developed five-gaited



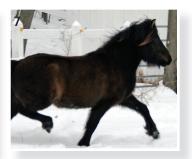












yearling with long even strides. Exceptional gait separation, good movements and supple.

F: Parker frá Sólheimum (8.39)

FF: Hervar frá Sauðárkróki (8.27) FM: Penta frá Vatnsleysu (7.71)

M: Glóð frá Brimilsvöllum (8.12)

MF: Glaumur frá Auðsholtshjáleigu (8.07) MM: Iða frá Brimilsvöllum (8.09)

4. Tristan from Sólheimar

A striking and proud colt, showing high speed changes. Self-confident, well reacting foal, 4-gaited with high, wide movements, supple trot with suspension and speed, canter with good suspension, strong legs and showed tölt in transitions. Both horses go back to Hervar in their breeding lines.

F: Parker frá Sólheimum (8.39)

FF: Hervar frá Sauðárkróki (8.27) FM: Penta frá Vatnsleysu (7.71) M: Ósk frá Kálfholti (7.95) MF: Máni frá Ketilsstöðum (8.01)

MM: Hylling frá Kálfholti

At Creekside Farm in Georgia there were several very good foals. Two of them were especially impressive.

5. Lotta von Birkenlund

The blue dun filly, Lotta, showed self-confidence and a happy, charming disposition. She was very tall, well built, with noticeably beautiful carriage. She showed lots of action and speed in four gaits, all in a beautiful frame, which made a great picture. Lotta was imported from Germany and her sire is the stallion Álfadans frá Ingólshvoli who is now residing in the US. Her mother is a daughter of Lárus von Birkenlund who is a son of Leikur frá Lækjabotnum. Lotta goes back to Ófeigur 882 in her breeding lines

F: Álfadans frá Ingólfshvoli (8.20)

FF: Orri frá Þúfu (8.34) FM: Hera frá Gerðum (7.90)

M: Maídís von Birkenlund

MF: Lárus von Birkenlund (8.14) MM: Alrún von Birkenlund (7.90)

6. Gaski from Creekside Farm

Of the colts, the 5-gaited, white stallion Gaski was impressive. He is a son of the well-known Stígandi frá Leysingjastöðum II, son of honor stallion Andvari frá Ey. Stígandi passes on very good hooves and joints, as well as an unbelievably large quantity of light, supple, and fast tölt. Gaski demonstrated this impressively with well separated gaits, and good neck carriage. Gaski's mother is a daughter of Gýmir frá Skarði and goes back to Ófeigur 882.

F: Stígandi frá Leysingjastöðum II (8.27)

FF: Andvari frá Ev I (8.36)

FM: Dekkja frá Leysingjastöðum II (7.94)

M: Gnótt frá Skarði

MF: Gýmir frá Skarði (8.06)

MM: Skjanna frá Skollagróf

We saw excellent horses at Lori Leo's Four Winds Farm, in Massachusetts. She had a lot of very talented, and interesting youngsters.

7. Duna from Westerly

Duna is an extremely forward thinking horse. She is proud and self-confident, well raised, with good head carriage. Her five gaits are well separated, with a very clear beat, natural tölt, and a lot of speed. She is daughter of Óskar frá Litla-Dal and Byssa frá Nýjabæ, a Hlynur frá Kjarnholtum I daughter. Hlynur received a special award for offspring in Germany!

F: Óskar frá Litla-Dal (8.54)

FF: Örvar frá Hömrum (8.02) FM: Gjósta frá Stóra-Hofi (7.59)

M: Byssa frá Nýjabæ (8.38)

MF: Hlynur frá Kjarnholtum I (8.57)

MM: Harpa frá Nýjabæ

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8. Gustur from Four Winds Farm

One of the outstanding foals of 2009 was Gustur, a son of Auður frá Lundum II and an Orri-daughter (who is the full sister to Rás frá Ragnheiðarstöðum, an outstanding mare). This foal had an excellent long neck, and beautiful proportions, he was elegant and "sparkling." He showed an especially good tölt, that was clear beated with good speed capacity, and he had consistently excellent head carriage.

F: Auður frá Lundum II (8.46)

FF: Gauti frá Reykjavík (8.28) FM: Auðna frá Höfða (7.85) **M: Dama frá Ragnheiðarstöðum** MF: Orri frá Þúfu (8.34) MM: Krás frá Laugarvatni (8.13)

Finally, we saw a very special foal in Kentucky that was presented to us at Guðmar Pétursson's farm.

9. Leiftur from Locust Hill Farm

Leiftur is a son of the famous Orri frá Púfu and Kveðja frá Stekkjardal, a Kolfinnur frá Kjarnholtum I daughter. This foal received three fives (the maximum score in the linear system) for tölt, beat and suppleness! He was so charming and proud, willing, and always at full attention for us. His head carriage was especially good – always well raised. The proud breeder and owners were Marianne and Jim Welch.

F: Orri frá Þúfu (8.34)

FF: Otur frá Sauðárkróki (8.37) FM: Dama frá Þúfu **M: Kveðja frá Stekkjardal (8.03)**

MF: Kolfinnur frá Kjarnholtum I (8.45) MM: Katla frá Stekkjardal (7.64)

Young horses 2010

Unfortunately I could only judge a handful of young horses in 2010. This was partly because it was hard for breeders to organize themselves (which the breeding committee is planning to change in 2011), and partly because I was unable to travel to many locations due to my back injury. There were many young horses I didn't get to see, but look forward to judging in 2011. Nevertheless, it was possible to get a quality assessment in 2010, and it seems that the percentage of good horses was even higher than in 2009. Quite a few young horses were shown and comments given:

On Creekside Farm in Georgia, we saw a high concentration of especially good quality young horses. Two fillies were especially impressive:

10. Sælin from Creekside Farm

The most outstanding filly there was Sælin, a Bjartur von Hof Osterkamp daughter (five year old first prize stallion from Germany). Her mother, Glódís von Hof Osterkamp, is out of Örvar frá Uppsölum (son of Hervar). Interestingly enough, her mother is a daughter of Fjalar frá Hafsteinsstöðum, who is here in the US. Sælin is a 5-gaited filly with emphasis on an exceptional rhythmic, natural tölt, consistently beautiful form and neck position, similar to that of a dressage horse with a radiant aura.

F: Bjartur von Hof Osterkamp (8.11)

FF: Jónas von Birkenlund (8.26) FM: Hugsýn von Birkenlund (7.73) **M: Glódís von Hof Osterkamp** MF: Örvar frá Uppsölum (8.18) MM: Svanhvít frá Hafsteinsstöðum (7.64)

11. Stjörnusól from Sólheimar

Stjörnusól was born at Creekside Farm, but the proud breeder/owners are Sigrún Brynjarsdóttir and Jason Brickner of Sólheimar in Vermont. She is a 4-gaited, chestnut Parker frá Sólheimum daughter (son of honor stallion Hervar). She was very elegant with a beautiful



neck, light on her feet with wide movements. Stjörnusól's dam is a daughter of honor stallion Hróður frá Refsstöðum.

F: Parker frá Sólheimum (8.39)

FF: Hervar frá Sauðárkróki (8.27) FM: Penta frá Vatnsleysu (7.71) **M: Fjöður frá Hofsstöðum (8.08)** MF: Hróður frá Refsstöðum (8.39) MM: Fluga frá Hofsstöðum

There were also four impressive colts:

12. Páll from Creekside Farm

The Tangó frá Strandarhöfði and first prize mare Prinsessa (daughter of honor stallion Gustur frá Hóli) son, Páll from Creekside Farm, was a good looking white stallion with beautiful conformation, and prancing movements – very typical for Gustur and Aron descendants (Tango's sire).

F: Tangó frá Strandarhöfði (8.39)

FF: Aron frá Strandarhöfði (8.54) FM: Ljóska frá Neðri-Brunná **M: Prinsessa frá Meðalfelli (8.11)** MF: Gustur frá Hóli (8.57)

MM: Drottning frá Meðalfelli (7.77)







13. Kvistur from Creekside Farm

The Óskar frá Litla-Dal son, Kvistur, was also pleasing with his magnificent gait separation, great tölt, and especially strong joints and good tendons. Kvistur's dam, Kolbrún, is an extraordinarily beautiful mare, getting her looks from her sire, Blær frá Höfða, and combines Sauðárkróki blood with the Kolkuós line.

F: Óskar frá Litla-Dal (8.54)

FF: Örvar frá Hömrum (8.02) FM: Gjósta frá Stóra-Hofi (7.59) M: Kolbrún frá Flesjustöðum MF: Blær frá Höfða (8.08) MM: Kolfinna frá Veðramóti

14. Marel from Creekside Farm

Another Bjartur vom Hof Osterkamp offspring, the stud colt Marel, had especially outstanding proportions. He was tall, had long lines, and a strong build. His movements were fluid and big. This chestnut colt is out of a Larus von Birkenlund mare. Larus has the same mother as Bjartur from Hof Osterkamp, producing an interesting product of inbreeding. The sire of his dam's dam is Hervar again.

F: Bjartur von Hof Osterkamp (8.11)

FF: Jónas von Birkenlund (8.26) FM: Hugsýn von Birkenlund (7.73) **M: Maídís von Birkenlund** MF: Lárus von Birkenlund (8.14) MM: Alrún von Birkenlund (7.90)



15. Valentinus from Creekside Farm

Valentinus was a well-built, tall, 5-gaited young stallion with an abundance of fluid natural tölt. He had good gait separation, and showed some pace, with very good movements. He had a lovely character, alert, joyful, focused, easy going, and attentive to humans. His sire is the Aron son, Tangó, who himself is a very friendly and highly judged horse. Valentinus's mother, Selma, is a beautiful, highly judged mare with an extraordinary neck.

F: Tangó frá Strandarhöfði (8.39)

FF: Aron frá Strandarhöfði (8.54) FM: Ljóska frá Neðri-Brunná **M: Selma frá Feti (8.10)** MF: Vængur frá Auðsholtshjáleigu (8.08) MM: Míla frá Akurgerði

In Colorado, at Hanging Valley Ranch, I had the pleasure of judging young horses bred by Gary Snook, which were all beautiful, and of high quality. However, one filly born in 2010 stuck out.

16. Maidis from Hanging Valley Ranch

This filly's name means "May Queen," and that is how she presented herself – proud, self-confident and with such high, elastic, fast gaits that she received the highest gait score. She is a daughter of Lykill frá Blésastöðum (sire of two highly judged World Cup breeding horses: Kormákur, who received a 10 for tölt and Eldvör, gold medal winner of five-year-old mares at the 2009 World Cup in Switzerland). Lykill is a son of honor stallion Orri.

F: Lykill frá Blesastöðum 1A (8.30)

FF: Orri frá Þúfu (8.34) FM: Raun frá Húsatóftum (8.08) **M: Gunnhildur frá Kollaleiru (8.18)** MF: Óðinn frá Reyðarfirði (8.13)

MM: Pota frá Reyðarfirði (7.94)



The outcome of my 2009 young horse judging tour was extremely positive. Not only because we saw many good, promising horses, but because I had a chance to personally meet with the breeders. We were met with great hospitality, and it was a wonderful opportunity to exchange and discuss breeding ideas. It is really unfortunate that I couldn't travel to see more horses in 2010. After my terrible car accident in early 2010, I wasn't able to travel long distances and was forced to cancel young horse assessments at many farms. Based on the quantity of horses I saw in 2009, I am sure there were many great young horses that I missed. I look forward to judging them in 2011 after my long awaited operation, which I had in January.

We can only congratulate the breeders and owners of these great horses, and we hope to see more like these in the future. Maybe they will one day represent the US and Canada at the World Cup – who knows? These were just a few of the outstanding young horses, and it is encouraging to see the elevation of quality. Keep at it, dear friends! •