

Alberta Remembers a Champion: KVF Zeno

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Lorrie Jamieson of Klondike Victory Farm remembers an unusual partner in Zeno, a multi-talented athlete who outshone expectations and built a legacy of results.

Purchased in May 2006 from Team Nijhof and brought over from Holland in February of 2007, he became a Licensed Stallion with both the CWB and CSHA in 2007.

This capable young stallion started competing as a 4 year old in both the Young Horse Jumpers and the FEI Young Horse Dressage and did that in both his 4 and 5 year old years until Lorrie decided to just do the jumpers with him. She competed him to the 1.20m level through his 7 year old year and with his success and ability fully evident sent him to Thermal in the winter of 2012 to compete and be put up for sale. He started in the 1.20m jumpers and then made the switch to the hunters partway through the circuit and remained in California for the spring with a very good hunter trainer. Zeno was reserve champion every time out in both the conformation hunters and regular working hunters, he was tried by several people but his jump was too 'hard' so he was never sold and came home in July of 2012.

Lorrie continued on with Zeno doing both the hunters and 1.30m jumpers for the rest of the 2012 year, he was champion or reserve every time out in Alberta as well as being very competitive in the jumper ring. In 2013 he continued on doing both hunters and jumpers and he was very consistent all year having good results in the hunter derbies as well as consistently placing in the 1.30m jumpers.

In 2014 after seven years successfully competing in both the Hunters and Jumpers, Lorrie completely made the switch to the jumper ring as Zeno's fitness level was too high to continue to do the hunters. Then, Zeno made his official Grand Prix debut in Tucson,

AZ, and his confidence flourished each week. He had a great show at Brandon, MB, where he placed in all four Grand Prix's and won the feature MTS Cup. Later that summer he made his FEI debut and continued consistently in the top ten proving he was quick enough to make time at that level.

In 2015 Lorrie and Zeno once again started the year in Tucson, AZ, where he won an Open Welcome and placed in every Sunday Grand Prix. He went on to place in every Grand Prix in Brandon, MB, and maintained his now typical consistency the rest of the year. They went on to Thunderbird and he jumped his first 1.50m as well as his first World Cup Qualifier. His resolve was absolute, he never stopped out in a jumper class in his entire career!

In 2016 this





pair started the year at Spruce Meadows Indoors and were twice 2nd in the Sunday Grand Prix and didn't miss a placing in Brandon. Zeno won the Caledonia Grand Prix, was 2nd in the ATCO Cup at the Edmonton Classic and then for the second year in a row he

won the speed derby there as well. In June they competed in RMSJ's FEI and placed 9th twice in August before heading out to Thunderbird again. The first week Zeno jumped better and stronger than ever and the second week jumped his first clear round at 1.50m, fatefully this was the day before his colic.

His career was good and steady but what Lorrie respected most was his demonstrated work ethic and try, he never gave up in the ring or schooling

at home he was always happy to go out and get to work and almost always gave a few bucks after he finished his rounds. He had a wonderful temperament and often was collected the same day as being put on the horse trailer with mares to go to the show and although he would give a

big whinny he was never hard to handle. Lorrie trained him for 9 years, they became partners and while a lot of people told her that Zeno wasn't good enough or wasn't fast enough she had a sense for his 'heart' and knew that he had a bigger heart than any horse and if asked he would try no matter what.

His nickname 'The Red Dragon' came about because he would snort like a dragon after finishing his rounds and leave the ring almost passaging because he was so proud of himself and sometimes would do it in the warm up ring just to scare a few people. Yet if any of Lorrie's young students needed to handle him he was a complete puppy dog and would never do anything while they were close by. Whatever providence brought these two together, whatever aspiration was born between them, how fortunate it was Zeno did not sell in California and how opportune that they should prosper together knowing a friendship of accomplishment and understanding that has shown off each other's best attributes.

KVF Zeno 2002-2016 RIP



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