



Text and photos by Brenda Hunter.



The Belgian high selling foal as well as the high seller overall purchased with the Wildcard Bid. Creek Side Voo-Doo bred by Creek Side Belgians of Birtle, Manitoba and purchased back by breeder Tom Lane.

2010 NAERIC Draft Horse Classic Futurity and Sale

**Total payouts of \$43,425.00 in 2010
1st Place Horse Earns Total of
\$9,434.50**

2012 Futurity Worth \$35,777.50

****NEW** Wildcard Bid Produces Sale Topper**

A Percheron gelding owned and exhibited by Gordon Ruzicka of Viking, AB, was the winner of the 2010 NAERIC Draft Horse Classic Futurity in Regina, Saskatchewan. Ju-Ly Ige earned \$7,352 for the first place finish, as well as \$2,082.50 in Breeder's Awards for breeders Lyle and Kathy Brown of Browns Percherons of Lenore, MB. The NAERIC events were part of the four-day draft horse show held November 20–22, 2010, in conjunction with the Canadian Western Agribition.

Ju-Ly Ige was solid in the competition, scoring a decisive first place in the halter division under all three judges, was tied for first in the rail division, and placed second overall in the pattern division. The panel of judges consisted of Mr. Gerald Allebach, Spring Mills, PA, Randy Riemer, Jordan, MN and the Mark Lindquist, Cameron, ON.

This year, the NAERIC Draft Horse Classic Sale & Futurity celebrated their 10th anniversary at Agribition. The first sale was held in 2001 with eight yearlings sold in that first year to start the rotation, and 17 weanling foals. The purpose of establishing the futurity was to promote quality draft horses, to create entertainment value, and to provide an event that is beneficial to the draft horse industry.

Ruzicka is a long-time competitor and committee member of the futurity in Regina, having been part of the NAERIC event since its inception. This is his fifth win at the annual event. "What other show can you go to with one horse and one cart and win that kind of money, even in tenth spot. Not even your six-horse hitch prize monies are paying like that," said Ruzicka. He believes that the futurity is a great opportunity for draft horse exhibitors to move up the ladder, as the futurity grows and evolves. "It is a great challenge to get a horse ready. It really forces you to do your homework

and put the effort into a horse to get it ready to come back. It is a neat game to be played in the draft horse industry."

Any draft horse breeder can become involved in the NAERIC Draft Horse Classic Futurity sale by becoming a member. Foals bred by members are then eligible to be consigned and sold through the futurity sale in Regina. All horses purchased through the sale are eligible to return as 2-year-olds to compete for the total futurity purse. Thirty-five percent of the selling price of each foal goes back into the purse which will be paid out in their 2-year-old year.

Fourteen 2-year-olds made the journey back to compete in the futurity this year; two Clydesdales, four Belgians, and eight Percherons. The first division was the halter class with Ju-Ly Ige sweeping the class with firsts under all three judges.

The point tally changed the overall outcome significantly as the pattern class was the next to take to the ring. Each year the futurity is held, the competition in the pattern division gets stronger between the exhibitors with precise execution of the manoeuvres and obstacles. There were some strong showings in the individual pattern division which demonstrated how well broke these young horses were. First-time futurity exhibitor, Rae-Ann Lane of Birtle, MB, proved that she had done her homework as she beat out the more-seasoned competitors to take top spot in the pattern division with her Clydesdale mare, Willow Way Izzy, bred by Wes Gordeyko of Ohaton, AB. With the rail portion being the final division to complete, it was the battle of Alberta as Ju-Ly Ige and Ruzicka tied for first with Paramount Dark Knight, a Percheron gelding owned by Susie Kovacs of Calgary, AB, shown by Brian Coleman of Didsbury, AB, and bred by Dr.

David Bailey also of Calgary. This was enough to put Ruzicka in the driver's seat as Ju-Ly Ige rocked out in fine style to capture the overall futurity winner title.

The first-ever lady division of the futurity was launched in 2009 and was again implemented this year. The concept is to award the top four lady owner/driver/handlers extra prize money totalling \$2,500 in addition to their overall place in the futurity. Lady drivers have to be the registered owner or co-owner of the horses they exhibit and have to be the exhibitor of the 2-year-old in all components of the competition. Rae-Ann Lane exhibiting her Clydesdale mare, Willow Way Izzy, was presented a cheque in the amount of \$1,000, for her first place finish in the lady division, in addition to the cheque she received for her fourth place finish overall in the futurity. Traci denBrok placed second in the Lady Division and Julie Roy was third.

Following the presentations to the 2-year-old class, the NAERIC Draft Horse Classic Sale got underway in the main arena with a good number of spectators and buyers on hand. Only colts purchased from this sale are able to compete as 2-year-olds in the futurity.

Don Peacock of Maple Creek, SK, conducted the sale, with Bruce Roy of Cremona, AB, on pedigrees. This year a new wildcard feature was added to the sale. All the colts consigned to the sale were lined up in the sales ring and the bidding began. Once bidding ceased, the highest bidder could choose a colt from the selection on offer.

This wildcard resulted in the high-selling foal of the sale; a Belgian stud colt, Creek Side Voo Doo, purchased back by the consignor Tom Lane of Birtle, MB for \$7,750. There were two Percherons topping the field at \$6,100, Paramount Stylish Knight, consigned by David Bailey, Calgary, AB, and purchased by Gord Ruzicka, Viking, AB; and Ju-Ly Kalico purchased back by her breeder, Lyle and Kathy Brown, Lenore, MB. The top Clydesdale, Willow Way Keno, was consigned and purchased by Wes Gordeyko of Ohaton, AB, for \$5,500. There were 21 lots sold for an average of \$3,507.14. In 2012, the 2-year-olds will come back to compete for a total of \$35,777.50 with the 1st place horse earning \$7,487.40.



Overall winner, Ju-Ly Ige, being shown in the halter class. Ige swept the halter class, placing 1st under all three judges.



Presentation of Breeder Award for the winner of the NAERIC Draft Horse Classic futurity to Lyle and Kathy Brown, Lenore, MB by Norm Luba, Executive Director of NAERIC for Ju-Ly Ige.



High-selling Clydesdale at the NAERIC Draft Horse Classic sale bred by Wes Gordeyko of Ohaton, AB, Willow Way Keno sold for \$5,500.



High-selling Percheron (tied), Ju-Ly Kalico bred by Browns Percherons, Lyle & Kathy Brown of Lenore, MB and purchased back by breeder for \$6,100.

Place	Horse	Owner	Exhibitor	Breeder
1st	Ju-Ly Ige	Gord Ruzicka	Gord Ruzicka	Lyle Brown
2nd	Lone Oak '08 Carley	Jim Lane	Jim Lane	Jim Lane
3rd	Paramount Major's Mist	Jordan Hewitt	Brian Coleman	David Bailey
4th	Willow Way Izzy*	Rae-Ann Lane & Carley Shaw	Rae-Ann Lane	Wes Gordeyko
5th	Paramount Dark Knight	Susie Kovacs	Brian Coleman	David Bailey
6th	Rocky Bar Miley**	Traci denBrok & Lyle Walsh	Traci denBrok	Nick denBrok
7th	Westbank Thad	John Ruzicka & Jason Bexson	John Ruzicka & Jason Bexson	John Ruzicka
8th	Creek Side Titan	Nick & Traci denBrok	Nick denBrok	Tom Lane
9th	Krebsie's Magnum	Tom Lane	Tom Lane	Darwin & Louise Krebs
10th	Willow Way Isaac	Gerald & Diane Hendry	Zephryn LaRiviere	Wes Gordeyko
11th	SanLan Moon Light***	Cameron & Julie Roy	Julie Roy	Cameron Roy

* First place, lady division, ** Second place, lady division, *** Third place, lady division