


music. The panel of five international judges rewarded Holzer's performance with a score of 76.550%.

"I am thrilled. It was a huge crowd and I don't think we have ever performed in front of a crowd that large," said Holzer, who won a Team Bronze Medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. "We took him in the stadium last night and we had a plan for tonight. I have a great team behind me and I could not have done it with out them. My horse showed the fact that he had so many people work to make this ride the best ever he has ever done in a freestyle."

"It is so great that it comes together a time like this — in front of my friends, family and supporters, many of whom have come all the way from Canada and New York to support me," added Holzer. "I have a really great horse."

Pop Art, Holzer's 2008 Olympic mount, is a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by her mother, Moreen Nicoll, and her husband, Rusty Holzer.

"Ashley and Pop Art were simply fantastic tonight and earned every bit of their eighth place in the world! A magnificent accomplishment that all Canadians can be proud of," said Robert Dover, the Dressage Canada technical coach/advisor.

When the Freestyle Medals were awarded, it was Edward Gal of the Netherlands who won Gold with Moorlands Totilas with the phenomenal score of 91.800%. Great Britain's Laura Bechtolsheimer won silver with a score of 85.350% with Mistral Hojris, and Steffen Peters of the United States and Ravel were awarded the bronze medal with a score of 84.850%. 

Manitoba-bred Achievement - Dressage

"Pikardi is an amazing, Manitoba bred, Canadian Warmblood gelding," says breeder Elaine Banfield. Pikardi competed at Grand Prix level dressage at the WEG under his rider for the Canadian Team, Bonny Bonnelo of Edmonton, AB. Few horses have the talent to reach Grand Prix levels, fewer yet are chosen to compete at such a world class event. Countries from all around the world compete for this recognition.


Pikardi was born at the breeding farm of Elaine Banfield which at that time was located in Oakbank, MB. Jill Biggs of Thunder Bay, ON, was the owner and founder of the breeding syndicate, and Elaine, an FEI dressage rider/trainer, Equine Canada certified High Performance Training Coach and National dressage judge, managed the breeding business for Jill.

Jill and Elaine had been researching the breeding business, bloodlines, type, success ratios etc. to find just the right combinations for success in their breeding program. Pikardi's mother, Delaney by Diamont, was found in California at Glenwood farms. Delaney had the breeding, type, movement and attitude that they desired in their broodmares. The stallion

she was bred to, Pointmaker, was also from California. It was felt that these good old solid bloodlines of Pik Bube, Weltmeister and the Duft lines would make a lovely dressage combination. Looks like they achieved their goals!

Pikardi's history in Manitoba would not be complete without thanking some of the people who helped make him a success along the way. Pikardi developed severe joint ill when he was three days old and his life and limbs were competently preserved through the genuine concern and professional attention given by veterinarian Dr. Glenn Sinclair, to whom is owed a passionate thank you.

The Pinterits family from Headingley, who purchased Pikardi as a weanling, took him to Elaine's farm to be backed and started by the competent Clint Kinkead (now of Eriksdale). "Good job Clint. Pikardi was a challenge," says Elaine.

Once Clint had Pikardi settled, he received some dressage schooling from Elaine. He passed through two more homes before reaching Bonny in Edmonton, and the rest, as they say, is history...Great History for a Manitoba Super Horse 



The three stages of Pikardi; top, as a foal, bottom left, Elaine Banfield during early training, and bottom right, Bonny Bonnelo takes him to the WEG.

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