



RWC, WC, WGC

HS Daydream's Heads Up

2015 Three-Gaited World's Grand Champion

By Karen Jones

Merriam Webster's definition of "dream" - as in, *to have a dream* - is: Something that you wanted to do, be, or have for a very long time. In the case of Scott Hagan and his World's Grand Champion, HS Daydream's Heads Up, Merriam Webster hit it right on the nose. Hagan bred and raised an outstanding American Saddlebred. He placed that horse in the hands of a highly skilled trainer who specializes in starting young horses and with help he honed his own riding skills to the degree that he could achieve his dream. He wanted to be the one who rode his beautiful gelding to the Three-Gaited World's Grand Championship and he chose an excellent trainer, creating just the right combination to help him attain a life long goal.

HS Daydream's Heads Up is unusually extreme in every way. He fits the ASHA and USEF description of a three-gaited horse to the last detail. He is extremely beautiful with hooks and hinges in all of the right places, and extremely well bred, sired by the industry-changing stallion, Undulata's Nutcracker and out of one of the premier broodmares in the country today, A Daydream Believer (BHF). This mare who is a World's Champion in her own right, has in her bottom line three Broodmare Hall of Fame recipients; her dam, Dream A Dream (BHF), her third dam, Dream Waltz (BHF), and her fourth dam, Flirtation Walk (BHF). The list of World's Champions and Reserve World's Champions that she has produced is mind bending; WGC^{CH}Castledream, RWC Dream Castle, WC HS Daydream's Believe In Me, WC HS Dignitary, WC HS Decorum, WC HS Daydreams Celebrity, and WC HS Daydream's Fashionista and of course, WGC HS Daydream's Heads Up. "I saw A Daydream Believer at George Knight's barn as a harness horse. She had everything - the right conformation, and she was fiery hot - exactly what I look for in a broodmare. Later I was able to purchase her from Kenny Wheeler," explained Hagan.

Heads Up was started and shown successfully by Tre Lee. With Lee aboard Heads Up won several classes, but most notably, the Two-Year-Old Three-Gaited World's Championship in 2011, and the National Three-Year-Old Three-Gaited Futurity in 2012. That year was the first year that Heads Up showed back in the Three-Gaited Grand Championship and made an eye popping show to win the Reserve World's Grand Championship for Hagan, quite an accomplishment for a three-year-old. The following year Lee won the under-two championship with Heads Up and made another breathtaking show in the grand championship to garner another Reserve World's Championship and the adoration of the crowd in Freedom Hall.

Hagan grew up in Bourbon County, Kentucky where from an early age he was exposed to accomplished horsemen and developed a love of the Saddlebred horse. He absorbed old-line breeding and studied pedigrees. His family owned the last Wing Commander daughter of Reverie's Desdemona (BHF) that Hagan showed in the juvenile five-gaited division. "Going to the Kentucky State Fair was our family vacation every year," Hagan said. "I've seen all of

"Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together."

~Paul Ryan

the great horses from 1966 on.” After finishing his education and building a successful real estate development business he decided to begin a breeding program of his own.

“My daughter took lessons from Jo Cornell and began showing. She had the three-gaited pony, S.S. Catch My Act. That’s when I decided to get back into the business myself.” The equestrian gene had been passed on. Hagan’s daughter, Sara won the 1996 Three-Gaited Pony 13-and-Under World’s Championship against 14 entries and came back in the Three Gaited Pony Championship to win a 19-horse class with Catch My Act.

Fred Sarver manages Hagan’s successful breeding program at Cornerstone, his picturesque breeding farm just outside of Paris, Kentucky. Hagan has definite parameters that he relies on in his program. “I stay with hot bloodlines that trace back to the great stallions, horses like Courageous Admiral and Attache.”

He currently has 13 broodmares at Cornerstone. Sarver has handled Hagan’s breeding horses for many years. “Scott’s breeding program is well thought out and planned and his success with it is proportional to the effort that he has put into it,” Sarver said. “Historically the mares that he has selected for his program are exceptional and the high percentages of success are just extraordinary. I’ve worked with him for more than 15 years and our business relationship has been extremely rewarding.”

Scott Hagan was happy with the early accomplishments of Heads Up and the start that Tre Lee gave the horse, but he had something else in mind for the future. “I wanted to ride and show horses from my own breeding program.” To accomplish his goal Hagan needed to improve his riding skills so he took his dream to his friend Debbie Foley. Foley had given Hagan instruction on his road horse, Big And Rich, and she had worked some colts for him over the years, but Hagan wanted to develop the tools to successfully ride Heads Up. To that end he bought himself a lesson horse, one that in Foley’s words, “...was a renegade mare - one with a really bad reputation. But she ended up being just the right horse for him to learn on because if you make a mistake she will seriously penalize you. He learned a lot from her.”

In June of 2014 Hagan sent Heads Up to Debbie and asked her if she was up to the task of putting him on the high-powered gelding. “I know what it is to have a dream and to accomplish that dream and I told him that I would love to be part of helping him achieve his goal. I also knew that there was a lot of work to do. It was June and by August I had to figure out and condition the horse, and to teach Scott how to ride him. Two weeks later Scott broke his shoulder and couldn’t ride at all. He didn’t get clearance to ride again until a week before Louisville and that wasn’t enough time to pull them together.” The qualifying class was a difficult one so she put him on the horse in between the qualifier and the championship, which she said she would not have done under normal circumstances, and there was a marked improvement in the championship.

Hagan put in a winter of hard work with the practice mare, diligently riding twice a week. “As soon as Heads Up came off of his winter rest I spent a lot of hours with him and with Scott,” Foley said. “I had to teach Scott basic horsemanship skills which meant that I didn’t just tell him, ‘Do this and do that’. I would actually stop him and explain to him what needed to be done and why. The improvements came in increments as the show season progressed.”

Hagan is so appreciative of Foley’s expertise and efforts. “Debbie did a spectacular job of preparing both of us. She had a big job. He is gentle and kind but he is also true to his bloodlines, a tough hot horse when you are on him. He is in a league of his own.” Foley credits Hagan for his dedication and determination. “He was a marvelous student soaking up information and putting it into use,” Foley said. “After the last lesson before Louisville Scott said to me that he was going to make me proud of him, and he did.”

When HS Daydream’s Heads Up hit the ring in Freedom Hall in the over-two class this year Hagan’s increased confidence levels were immediately recognizable and the horse was so outstanding in the grand championship that the judges tied the class without a workout. The red chestnut horse with the textbook look handled all that came to him that with grace and class. Hagan joins Jean McLean Davis, Elisabeth Goth and Misdee Miller, being only the fourth amateur to win the Three Gaited World’s Grand Championship and is the first breeder/owner/exhibitor to do it. “It really wasn’t as much about joining the ranks of Jean McLean Davis and

HS Daydream’s Heads Up (WGC, WC, WGC) | 04/30/2009
Undulata’s Nutcracker X A Daydream Believer (BHF, WC, RWC) by Attache’s Born Believer

	^{CH} Will Shriver*	Callaway’s Johnny Gillen*
^{CH} Caramac*	Stonehedge Vanity*	^{CH} Kate Shriver* (BHF)
Undulata’s Nutcracker, 2001 ch.	The New York Times*	Vanity’s Sensation Of Crebilly*
Christmas In New York ERB	Nativity	Lofty Elaine*
Attache’s Born Believer*	Attache*	New Yorker*
A Daydream Believer (BHF), 1993 ch.	Brandywine’s Bouquet*	Canterbury Lane*
Dream A Dream (BHF)	Sultan’s Spartan*	Native Promise*
Dream Waltz Supreme*	Dream Waltz Supreme*	Nancy O’Lee*
		Chief Of Greystone*
		The King’s Geni*
		Brandywine’s Denmark Ace*
		Peachette*
		Supreme Sultan*
		Kate’s Fine Feathers*
		^{CH} Valley View Supreme*
		^{CH} Dream Waltz* (BHF)

Elisabeth Goth and Misdee Miller as it was about an opportunity to show my own bloodlines. I was privileged to be associated with a quality team of people who made that happen – Debbie [Foley], Bud Willimon, Alex Carillo, Fred Sarver, the veterinarians, the whole support team. Without those people it never would have happened.”

To show his sincere gratitude for her efforts toward his goal, Hagan has turned the reins of Heads Up over to Debbie Foley for the 2016 show season. “This is a marvelous horse,” Foley said. “I believe that history will show that this is the greatest three-gaited horse that ever lived, and I would say that no matter who trained him.” When asked how HS Daydream’s Heads Up has changed his life, Hagan replied, “I’ll never have another one like him. He is the epitome of a three-gaited horse and has given me a lot of pride in my breeding program. There is nothing about him that I would want to change. He will remain with me for the rest of his life.”

A Daydream Believer (BHF, WC, RWC)

