

Time is right—again— for ASB sport horses

There is good news for the American Saddlebred owners, breeders and trainers: the ASB sport horse is an idea whose time has come – again.

Throughout the early part of the 20th century through the '50s, '60s and '70s horses such as Jacks Or Better, Stonewall's Little General and American Lady represented the versatility and talent the breed has to offer for the Olympic disciplines, including show jumping, dressage, eventing, competitive trail and endurance, combined driving and, most recently, reining.

Today, horses of our breed are winning at the highest levels nationwide, but many go unsung as American Saddlebreds, due to being sold without their papers or having owners for whom breed representation is not important. However, for lovers of the breed, these horses stand out from the crowd.

The sport horse option offers an enormous marketing venue for breeders and trainers of American Saddlebreds.

As an example, the United States Dressage Federation reported growth in its membership of 110% from 1990 to 2000. These numbers mean an opportunity for savvy sellers.

These disciplines require quality prospects who think well, have athletic ability and usually some size. Sport horse buyers will ordinarily often want to see horses that are working under saddle; they are not inclined to buy unstarted prospects.

The reward is a market for three year olds and up that starts in the 5K range and is solid through 10-15K. With these kinds of numbers, breeders can afford to raise horses to this age, start them,

market them appropriately and give their show horse division horses their time as well.

"Over the last six months, we have supported the sale of a dozen high-quality prospects to great buyers who are thrilled to find such talent at affordable prices," Julie Lynn Andrew of Bryn Dewines Farm reports. "Our goal is to provide buyers and sellers a way to find each other through our website and referrals."

Along with Shirley Hoffman of HiView Acres, Longmont, CO, Julie also does rescue of ASBs in need.

"We are working toward a time when every American Saddlebred will have a high-quality long-term home that fits their talents and ability and rescue will be a thing of the past," says Shirley. "The sport horse option is an exciting place for our horses to be."

Pictured is Morning Eclipse, a 17-hand black mare owned by Bryn Dewines Farm. "Mimi" achieved a score of 72.4% competing in the open division at Dressage at Devon, 2002. She is by WGC Captive Spirit and out of a Great Day daughter.

For information on programs supporting the marketing of American Saddlebred Sport Horse, visit the website www.americansaddlebredsporthorse.com



*Website serves as
link between
breeders, trainers
and buyers.*



Pictured above and below: Morning Eclipse, scoring 72.4% at 2002 Dressage at Devon.

