

# In A Different Class

## The Influence Of A Daydream Believer (BHF)

by Bob Funkhouser

They're extremely rare. Many a breeder of American Saddlebreds has spent sleepless nights dreaming of what would make the best broodmare? What combination of pedigree, conformation, ability, heart and that unknown "it" factor come into play to be the mare that produces world's titleholder after world's titleholder and even rarer, world's champion producer after world's champion producer?

At the end of 2015 this breed lost one of those gems with the passing of world's champion A Daydream Believer (BHF). She had five owners throughout her 22 years, starting with George Knight who sold her to Green Haven Farm as a two-year-old, winning the ASHA Futurity of Kentucky Two-Year-Old Fine Harness World's Championship with Knight driving. They sold her Kenneth and Sallie Wheeler following A Daydream Believer's Three-Year-Old Fine Harness at Lexington Junior League the next year, again with Knight at the whip. The mare stayed with him through Louisville where they were reserve in the Three-Year-Old Fine Harness National Futurity. She would go to win two more Louisville blues in the park division with Steve Wheeler riding under the direction of Nelson Green before she began her second career as one of the greatest producers of all time.

"She was as game as the come," remembered George Knight. "There was a funny story about her. As a yearling she and He's Real Bad were turned out together and it was a cold day in February and those two had gotten out of the pasture. Our neighbor called to say they saw some loose horses. Kim [Skipton] and I got in the car and went looking for them. We found him and then found her down the road caught in some brush. She was in a mess. I caught her and started leading her back and the roads were so icy. I was freezing and we had to stop the car and I changed places with Kim.

"I later sold the colt to Jerry Greenberg and later that year he saw A Daydream Believer and asked me, 'Why didn't you show her to me?' I told him I didn't want to confuse him. He bought her as well and we went to Louisville and both won their two-year-old classes. They were both out of [Sultan's] Spartan mares."

So, she had the ability as a performer and if you look at her pedigree you can see why. You can also see why she was the dam of two world's grand champions and several other world's titleholders. A Daydream Believer was sired by George Knight's go to stallion at the time, Attache's Born Believer, a horse with a lot of substance. A son of world's champion Attaché, Born Believer was also noted for being the sire of multi-titled World's Grand Champion Three-Gaited Hollywood Excellence (BHF).



*Scott Hagan knew he had to have A Daydream Believer the first time he saw her in the show ring. With his vision she had a most remarkable produce record as a broodmare, one of the very best ever.*