

2008 MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

RINGWOULD JAGUAR A1-4528

The Australian Quarter Horse Association honours RINGWOULD JAGUAR with a Medal of Excellence.

Sire: JENSEN'S MAN Q-5774
Dam: NATIONS OF LILI FM-12152
Breeder: JDP & AK SAUNDERS REDMOND, WA
Owner: JDP & AK SAUNDERS REDMOND, WA
Profile: 12/10/1991 – Black Gelding

'Ringwould' is a very small stud in Western Australia, started in 1980 with the purchase of a 3year old Quarter Horse colt called JENSEN'S MAN Q-5774 (TRUDY'S MAN Q-1117 x BALMORAL TUDOR FLIGHT R2-257) from a farmer near Bruce Rock. BALMORAL TUDOR FLIGHT (PRONTO MIO Q-4 x ROYAL LINE R1-134). JENSEN was such a joy to work with, so easy to start under saddle that Jim Saunders got on him for the first time out in the middle of a 400 acre paddock, simply because he had forgotten the lunging whip and had to do something new as the bush fire radio aerial didn't command much respect. JENSEN'S education progressed and he was taken to the Quarter Horse Championships in Perth, nearly 500km away, for classification.

Information supplied by Augusta Saunders: -

"If it's a hobby it'll have to wait until we have some spare time," and since we never had any spare time, horse breeding had to be part of the business. The limit was supposed to be two foals a year, and we started with a station type mare that I had bought before I had the children. This mare produced four foals before getting caught up in a fence when RINGWOULD DARRACQ A1-2241 was two and a half months old. He grew to over 16hh and went on as 'ARDITO' to win the World Dressage Challenge Final in 1998 with Victoria Hamilton.

JENSEN'S MAN was a very versatile horse, competing in Dressage, Western events, Stock Horse and campdrafting. He even had a run in a one-day event when his daughter was lame at the last minute. At the Autumn Horse Show Augusta rode in the Western Riding with breeches and boots under her chaps and a white shirt and stock under her Western shirt so that she could do a quick change to go in the Ridden Stallion after it. He was a perfect gentleman in company, and was ridden by Jenny and Annie Daley at campdrafts, and by John Saunders in dressage and campdrafting. At home he was more relaxed and could be quite fun to ride. His success in Australian Stock Horse and campdrafting led to him being accepted as an Australian Stock Horse, and, since all the Quarter Horse events were in Perth, it made sense to change their breeding focus to Stock Horses.

In 1989, the Saunders family were given a Thoroughbred mare called NATIONS OF LILI FM-12152, by CARNATIONS FOR ME (TB) out of LILI LORRAINE (TB), who was by WATERINGBURY (TB). Both strongly bred for distance racing, and Augusta had been advised to look out for WATERINGBURY (TB) blood as they could jump. Her first foal was a filly, IMPALA, who unfortunately injured her tendon on the truck ramp just as she was getting useful. The second was RINGWOULD JAGUAR, and sadly LILI got an infection in her leg and died when he was only three months old. JAGUAR hadn't been handled and spent three days in the paddock with his dead mother before being persuaded to follow

the Saunders home. Like DARRACQ before him, he grew bigger than his sibling with the extra attention.



Photo: RINGWOULD JAGUAR as a foal with his dam, NATIONS OF LILI FM-12152

JENSEN'S MAN's progeny were successful in a wide range of activities, some did station work, others played polocrosse, and some went campdrafting. John Saunders started JAGUAR's education and he was given a lot of intense dressage work. When John went away Augusta found that JAGUAR was too tense and highly strung for most people to ride, so she spent 18 months trying to get him to relax; and by the end of 2000 she took him to the local shows for hacking and dressage. He refused to stand still in the line-up for the judge to put a ribbon on him, and she realised that the average "hacking and dressage" rider would never stay on him.



Photo: RINGWOULD JAGUAR as a yearling.

After Christmas, 2000 Augusta took him to Sonja Johnson, a local eventing rider whom she had watched over the years, and asked her to see if she could teach him to jump. Augusta thought that would open up a market with more athletic riders. She rang me after three days and said he's a natural. After a fortnight, he went home to the Saunders as she was going away, so Augusta was given instruction to practice the "big trot" up and down hills.

Jaguar went back to Sonja on a new financial basis, and he started his competition career at Pre-Novice level, winning his first two outings. By June, 2001 they went to Melbourne for the CCI* as Sonja's other horse, FOREIGN LIAISON was competing in the CCI**. JAGUAR went clear cross-country to vastly improve on his dressage placing, but Sonja had a fall with FOREIGN LIAISON and dislocated her shoulder. Hours later she was riding JAGUAR in the show jumping, indoors for the first time, only able to use one hand properly, and he jumped clear and came up to third place. Imagine Augusta's delight when he stood like a rock to have the rosette attached to his browband, and lifted his head as they played the triumphal music.

There have been many triumphal moments since then. RINGWOULD JAGUAR has taken the Saunders family (or at least given them a reason to go) to Pau in France for the Eventing World Cup final in 2004, where he came 5th; to Aachen in Germany for the World Equestrian Games in 2006, where the team won Bronze but Sonja had two falls. In 2005 they were in the winning team for the Trans-Tasman at Adelaide CCI*, and individually second and in 2007 they were in the Trans-Tasman team again for competition at Taupo, New Zealand where the team lost but they won individually. 2008 was the Olympics, which were held in Beijing, an experience in itself, and Augusta shall never forget the roar of the crowd when Sonja and JAGUAR jumped clear, one of very few riders to do so. The Silver Medal was hard fought and only by the narrowest of margins.



Photos: RINGWOULD JAGUAR & SONJA JOHNSON at the 2008 OLYMPICS held at BEIJING



AWARDS		
Date	Event	Award
2/12/2008	Performance	AQHA Medal of Excellence
