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NORTH AMERICAN THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY



GOLIATH
by: Whitesburg
out of: Blesk Star
breeder: Crimson King
Farm

Goliath's story, as told by Kathleen Cronk:

"Goliath is my fairy tale horse. I first met the 17.1h gelding in 1995. Purchased from a track in the midwest by a dealer, I found my "project horse" at his farm in northwest Pennsylvania. My employer at the time went halves with me on Goliath. It was his financial investment and my investment in time and training.

"Little did I know that they really do still make "diamonds in the rough," within two weeks I was nuts about this horse: his desire to please, athletic ability and sense of humor (if he were a person he would be a comedian, he is always "on stage"). Our first two show seasons at Training and First Level were incredible and the project horse was put on the market in the summer of 1997. In the meantime with his sale looming over my head, I had been frantically trying to come up with the money to purchase Goliath myself. It was not to be. He was sold without any knowledge on my part as to whom or where. I was completely devastated. I had truly lost my best friend. Any attempts at inquiry were met with resistance. I never gave up my search and would ask any vet, farrier, etc., I met if they knew of a big TB named Goliath.

"Three years later, I had moved my teaching and training business to Erie, PA. At a schooling show, early in the morning, my heart stopped when I saw Goliath's name in the show program. Telling myself not to get excited, it had to be a different horse, I walked the grounds. As it turned out he was a scratch that day, but the secretary was kind enough to give me the owner's number and read his age and color to me off of the entry. I called everyone I knew, half crying telling them, "I found Goliath!"

"My partner, Bill, and I went to see 'G' the next day. Happy and shiny, he searched our pockets for treats and when they were gone he went back to harassing his pony stablemate. I quizzed his young owner on her plans after high school, etc., and finally asking outright if she would sell him back to me that day. No, he was there for life she told me. With all of my photo albums and past dressage tests we got back in the truck and drove an hour home. I tried to console myself with the fact that he was loved and safe.

"In April of 2001 the girl's mother phoned to say that they had decided to sell Goliath because of college, etc. Again, crying, I phoned Bill who was turkey hunting in Nebraska at the time. Screaming in the cell phone, "Goliath is for sale!" Before we lost the connection I heard, "We'll make it work somehow!"

"The rest is history. Bill borrowed against his truck to buy me Goliath. His only comment was, "I don't mind you buying a horse for sentimental reasons, just don't pay anymore than you have to." Goliath came home to our house on April 22, 2001. A bit full of himself, "G" had gotten cheeky and rude and needed a refresher course in all forms of manners.

"More importantly, after the better part of four years off masquerading as a 4-H horse, we had no idea if his big stiff body would rebound for Dressage or not. I really didn't care if he was only a pasture pet. Rebound he did earning scores in the high 70s at first and second level and high 60's at Third, Fourth and PSG. In the 2004 USDF All Breeds Award Program we were Fourth Level OPEN National Champion and PSG OPEN National Reserve Champion. In 2005 we won USDF All Breeds PSG OPEN National Champion.

"With year end and high score awards too numerous to mention, Goliath has his own little fan club that congregates at ringside. What's next for the 17 year old TB with the Eddie Murphy personality? Grand Prix, of course. He is currently polishing up his one tempis. "