

Adidi

THE "ONE OF STEEL" RETURNS



HADIDI

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BY JOE FERRISS



ON MAY 4, 1992, at 11:00 a.m. the proceedings began. It was an exciting day, but also bittersweet as hundreds gathered to watch, reminisce, and participate in the Gleannloch Final Legacy Sale. Sadly it was a defining moment — the end of an era for the legendary Gleannloch Farm. For decades the farm had won many National level championships and many hearts with their magnificent straight Egyptian horses. Its renowned breeding program was founded on the immortal *Morafic and many other excellent imported Egyptian mares and stallions. Interested buyers came from all over the globe to own and cherish prized

examples of the Gleannloch legacy. And all over the globe as the sales offerings were dispersed. One unknown eye-catching steel-grey two-year-old colt bounded about the arena and promptly was swept up by an overseas buyer for the exceptional sum of \$60,000, remarkable in the depths of an economic recession in the early 1990s. He was by far the highest-selling two-year-old of the sale — male or female. The stylish and noble youngster was headed for foreign shores as his new owner lived in Italy. Perhaps this was the last he would be seen in America.

The colt's name was Hadidi (*Norus x Hebet Allah). How well he would live up to his name: "Hadidi" is Arabic for "the iron one," or "one of steel." Drinking in the warm southern winds of Italy, Hadidi grew into a magnificent stallion of strength and beauty. He had become an Adonis with balance, harmony, large, dark expressive eyes, perfectly set curved ears, deep jowls, graceful silhouette, short back, and upright carriage — all in a very imposing size. His charisma and nobility gave notice that he was undoubtedly a champion winning many titles throughout Europe. He radiated presence and life to the fullest. By the time he was four years old he became Italian National Champion. The momentum continued and by the time he was six years old it was decided to campaign him in other countries. In 1996, his owners sent Hadidi to North America to continue his successful international show schedule. When he set foot in Canada, he won Canadian National Top Ten Stallion. That same year he also garnered other wins, becoming class A winner and Region 16 Reserve Champion Stallion. Then in 1997, at age seven, he became a celebrated champion everywhere. He was Scottsdale Top Ten stallion, U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion, and finally



returning to Europe, he was World Champion at Paris. At age eleven, when most stallions' show careers had long ended, Hadidi returned to the showring to become World Reserve Champion Stallion at Paris and Nations Cup Supreme Champion Stallion. Of the Paris shows, handler Steve Dady recalls that there was something special about Hadidi and that at the World Championships he just stepped up and had his best show; it was his to win. At age fourteen, twice the age of some of his competitors, he became Egyptian Event Europe Reserve Champion Stallion as well as Italian Reserve National Champion. With such a long and distinguished record of international wins, Hadidi proved to be the "one of steel."

What judges liked about Hadidi, they also liked about his show-winning get, which charmed audiences throughout Europe. With over 60 percent of his get being mares, Hadidi soon proved to be an excellent mare sire. His get showed a special charm and charisma, often with the irresistible large dark eyes, unforgettable expressions, and harmonious proportions. His stunning daughter Elettra out of the Russian bred Aphrodite, was Top Five European

HADIDI

2/22/1990 GREY STALLION

BRED BY GLEANNLOCH FARMS, TEXAS

*NORUS

GHARIB

ANTER

SOUHAIR

HADBAN ENZAH

NOHA

NADJA

NAZEER EAO

*MORAFIC

MABROUKA

HEBET ALLAH

FAGIR

*SOHEIR II

TIFLA

Champion, and she produced a string of beauties including the popular stallion Shael Dream Desert (by Ansata Shaamis). Hadidi's daughter Hadishana out of the American-bred SOA Shoshanna, won Champion Mare at the 2007 Cinisi ECAHO show. Other champion get and grandget followed elsewhere.

What makes such a special horse? What lineage brings forth such a noble and compelling individual? Hadidi's pedigree is quite fascinating relative to his Egyptian contemporaries. His sire *Norus was bred by the renowned Weil-Marbach Stud in Germany. *Norus is a son of Gharib (Anter x Souhair), the noble black stallion from Egypt whose quality was apparent in numerous performers sired by him at the stallion licensing trials in Germany. Gharib was also sire of endurance winners. He was valued for his powerful, fluid motion, and overall athletic ability. *Norus's dam was the lovely Noha (Hadban Enzahi x Nadja). Noha was also dam of the champion producing Qatari mare RN Farida (by Salaa El Dine). Noha is remembered for her lovely large eyes associated with the Nefisa female line. Noha was actually 87 percent of the same breeding that produced the legendary sire El Hilal (*Ansata Ibn Halima x *Bint Nefisaa). How is

this so? Something often overlooked is that Hadban Enzahi was a three-quarter brother to *Ansata Ibn Halima, while Nadja was a full sister to *Bint Nefisaa. *Norus sired many-times dressage, show hack, and hunter champion performer Noribba (x *Ghariba).

Hadidi's dam Hebet Allah (*Morafic x *Soheir II) was already a popular Gleannloch show mare having won U.S. National Champion Futurity and Canadian National Top Ten mare as well as other championships. A prolific mare, her produce were in demand internationally, with one daughter being exported to Argentina, two sons to Chile, and of course Hadidi went to Italy. At age 23, Hebet Allah was exported to Saudi Arabia. It is worth noting that Hebet Allah is a daughter of *Morafic and out of a mare of the same Zareefa-Bint El Bahreyn female line as *Bint Maisa El Saghira, and we know that this famous combination of families is what created the legendary Shaikh Al Badi.

An overview of Hadidi's pedigree reveals that it comprises a series of Nazeer get crossed together for several generations, up until the point of Gharib's being introduced to the sire line of the pedigree. Gharib is without Nazeer in his pedigree and of the tail male line to Ibn Rabdan, rather



than the widely represented Nazeer sire line. This kind of magic is what created horses like Nabel, Makhsous, and Imperial's *Ibn Safnaz to name a few. For Hadidi the magic seemed to be that he was the perfect amalgam of all of the best elements in his pedigree. It was as if the desert winds took the nobility of *Morafic, the height and airiness of the Bint El Bahreyn female line, the powerful shoulders and depth of Gharib, the perfectly set ears of Hadban Enzahi, and the large lustrous eyes of Nefisa and forged all of them into one bigger-than-life vision that stands alone, "the iron one," Hadidi.

During his brief tenure in North America, Hadidi managed a stop, following his show season, by the breeding shed. From the resulting foal crop emerged the charming

beauty Isabella HG (x Belle Staar). She was to become Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Mare in 2003. Also among the lovely straight Egyptian Hadidi daughters was the classic flea-bitten grey beauty Dorian Bint Hadidi (x Dorian Fa Halima), Egyptian Event Reserve Senior Champion Mare in 2007.

The impression that these two mares made was to have a lingering effect for one couple in particular, breeders Joseph and Gail Mailloux. Watching a class at the U.S. Egyptian Event, Gail notes, "I spotted a mare down in the ring I couldn't take my eyes off of. She reminded me of the Gleannloch horses I fell in love with thirty years ago. It was Dorian Bint Hadidi. She had that classic look I thought was lost. Sure enough, she was sired by Hadidi, a Gleannloch horse. Now the wheels were turning in my head. Where was Hadidi?"

When Gail and her husband Joe

began Two Silos Farm Egyptian Arabians, it was with the intent of establishing an Egyptian breeding program primarily based on quality mares. And that is how the breeding program progressed, by breeding their select mares to internationally acclaimed sires. The formula has been highly successful for them. "We had dodged the stallion part of the business and had no intention of changing a thing," says Gail. However, the glimpse of a flea-bitten grey daughter had already planted a seed that would lead to the return of "the iron one" to his birthplace.

Last year while in Belgium, Joe and Gail were watching the presentation of Showcase Stallions at the Egyptian Event Europe when in came the stunning, by then aged pearl

BOTTOM RIGHT: HADIDI DANCES ON U.S. SOIL UPON ARRIVAL AT RIGBIE FARM QUARANTINE STATION IN MARYLAND. STATION OWNER SHARON CLARK AT THE LEAD.

TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT: HADIDI STEPPING OUT TO HIS NEW HOME AND ANNOUNCING HIS ARRIVAL.

white, Hadidi. Gail remarks, “I had never seen Hadidi in the flesh before and when he came into the ring, my mouth just fell open and stayed that way. He just blew me away. Later we went back to his stall and studied him up and down. There was something special there. You could see it, you could feel it. This was a world champion — a 16-hand horse with an 18-hand persona. He left me with an image I couldn’t forget.”

So the time had come for Two Silos to add an important resident sire to their blossoming herd, and there was no question who that would be. All arrangements



SPARAGOWSKI PHOTO





HADIDI, MAGNIFICENT AND FULL OF LIFE AT NINETEEN, TAKES A GALLOP.

were made and at age 19 Hadidi arrived safely in quarantine on U.S. shores, preparing for his journey back to the heartland of America. When they arrived in Maryland to greet him in quarantine, Joe took one look at Hadidi and said: "Gail, we did the right thing, this is a great horse."

Joseph Polo, international judge and trainer, shares some reflections on Hadidi: "Seeing him over his long show career, Hadidi was simply a beautiful show horse with great charisma and presence. His is a big, handsome, beautiful stallion. He is also clearly a great broodmare sire. His daughters have gone on to become top producers, producing champions in Europe and Brazil. Given his long, successful show career and the international interest in his daughters, their success in the shows and how they produce, the horse has clearly proven himself over a long time, siring better than himself. Now he brings that

opportunity back to American soil."

Soon Hadidi will become the head sire at Two Silos and exchange the warm winds of Italy for the cool breezes of the Ozark Highlands. Once he is comfortably settled in, breeding the farm's mares will be the first order of business, followed by an evaluation of opportunities to maximize what he offers as a sire.

It is a heartwarming story. The unforgettable two-year-old colt that leaves his birthplace, leaving behind closing doors, for foreign shores looking for open doors. With his charisma, charm, and steely determination, he becomes a celebrity, first in Europe and then internationally, and finally returns to his original homeland, a symbol of the glory days of the Gleannloch legacy, a seasoned veteran, an ambassador for the noble Arabian horse, and a patriarch for future matriarchs.

HADIDI

* NORUS X HEBET ALLAH



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