



THE EVOLUTION OF BUCHANAN STABLES

BY BOB FUNKHOUSER



One of Buchanan's promising youngsters is this two-year-old owned by Patrice White. Reserve world's champion SH Destiny's New Moon is by Rose Arbor Destiny out of Venetian Moon.

May 12, 2001 is the day Michael Buchanan came to the United States from South Africa to be a part of the horse business. He's worked several different jobs on the path that eventually led him to Shelbyville, Kentucky, where he purchased part of the Split Decision farm to hang out his own shingle as Buchanan Stables.

His very first opportunity in the U.S. was at Kalarama Farm, followed by a stint in construction work and then as a Thoroughbred exercise rider for John T. Ward and Michael Matz. However, after seeing a couple of colleagues paralyzed from bad accidents he returned to his true love, the American Saddlebred.

Buchanan went to work for Kris Knight and spent nearly four years there having the utmost respect for Knight and her husband Bill. He learned to gait and show horses under their tutelage, soaking up everything he could.

"Kris is such a great businesswoman and she and Bill taught me so much," said Buchanan.

At night, Buchanan and Andre van Schalkwyk would go to Copper Coin Farm to start babies. It was there that another opportunity opened up for him. During this time

the late Patty Milligan would bring her string from Texas to Copper Coin to stay for the summer and show on the Kentucky circuit. She had a tough horse named Our Snapdragon that she asked Buchanan to break to ride for her. Impressed with the job he did, she asked him to come to work for her.

In Texas, he got to work alongside another great horseman at Milligan's, Lonnie Quarles. With the combination of Milligan and Quarles he again learned a lot about horse training and the business side of the business. It was also where he had his first world's champion, Our African Violet (Dorian Wild Temper x Callaway's Carnation BHF), the 2009 Three-Year-Old Five-Gaited Mare World's Champion.

"When I won that class, Kris Knight was the first person at the gate to congratulate me," said Buchanan.

Moving back to Kentucky, Buchanan spent time with Neil Visser and then AJ Bruwer before renting some stalls at Crabtree's and breaking colts for Lionel Ferreira before a job offer from Pieter Hugo took him to Far Away Farm for a spell.

When Buchanan started looking for his own place he was traveling through Shelbyville and saw some construction going on at Christine Broder's old Split Decision farm so he stopped in and the construction workers pointed him in the direction of owner Jeff Reynolds. The barn, originally built by Hoppy Bennett, had been sitting empty for over 20 years. After meeting with Reynolds and explaining what he was looking for, they came to an agreement.

In December of 2019, Buchanan moved into the 28-stall barn with 28 acres and a house with a lot of Saddlebred history, accompanying the facility. Since then, he and his wife Sophia Fischer, a world champion in her own right, have built a solid business with champion American Saddlebreds and road horses. He and Steven Yoder had become friends and partners on a few roadsters and he was hooked on the division.

"I enjoy having a variety of horses in the barn. The roadsters were a new challenge and I love the adrenaline of showing in those classes," said Buchanan. Breeding American Saddlebreds has also become a part of his business model.

"This year, the first crop of foals born on the farm are just starting their training," said Buchanan. "We have 11 mares, four of our own. For stallions, we have bred to Samur, Rose Arbor's Destiny, Belle Reve's Medici Man, Glamorous Nuts, Sedgfield's Legacy, Mountainview's Heir To Fortune, Undulata's Nutcracker and Wilgabo's St. Anthony."

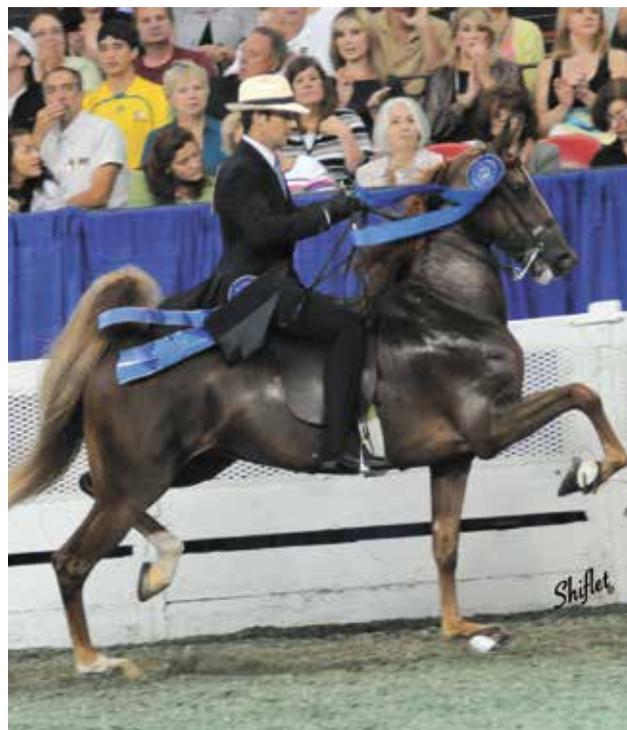
Since opening his facility, Buchanan has had such stars as Cobain, Far Away Bolero, Samur's Obsession, Monnington Sicario, reserve world's champion Rombauer, world's champion Drive Me Nuts, Minister, Born Bougie, Beware Heir, world's champion Nut An Illusion, Banjo Man MS, Slash Hundred Proof, Wildbriar's Pretty Penny, world's champion of champions Crazysexycool and the roadsters, Powerball, Hot Rod, DS This Girl Is On Fire, Bustamove and reserve world's champion Oops We Did It Again.

Another element of Buchanan Stables started from a hobby of building chicken coops. He became so good at it, he now has a full-time employee building custom coops for customers throughout the Bluegrass state. They exude the same quality as the champion show horses on the property, making for a pretty satisfying life on the farm.

Buchanan and his team are ready for the 2024 season and the continuing development of the well-bred youngsters at home. In the beautiful setting of their Bluegrass home, it makes their work all the more satisfying.



Reserve world's champion Oops We Did It Again and Daneli Miron were preparing for the upcoming season after winning Youth Roadster To Bike titles last year at Lexington Junior League, All-American Classic and ARHPA.



Buchanan's first world's champion was in 2009 while working for Patty Milligan. He took Our African Violet to the Three-Year-Old Five-Gaited Mare World's Championship for Fox Grape Farm.



Daneli Miron purchased world's champion of champions Crazysexycool last fall, winning the Ladies Three-Gaited Stake at the All-American Classic. She will be a future broodmare for Miron Sport Horses LLC.



An equine graveyard on the property is a reminder of the great history of this farm.



"Sister" is another homebred two-year-old for Patrice White. She is by Rose Arbor's Destiny out of Callaway's Taylor Swift.