

Guidam: A Top Sire With a Champion's Temperament Offspring Prove Themselves at Olympics



Guidam offspring prove themselves time after time. Just two weeks after the stallion died in a trampling accident, the Guidam offspring Ninja and Authentic paid their sire the ultimate tribute by winning the silver and bronze medals at the Hong Kong Olympics, thereby honoring a stallion that has been of great value to jumper breeding.

Guidam has almost 40 offspring that compete from the 1.30m level through Grand Prix. At the 2006 World Championships in Aachen, three Guidam sons finished in the top 18: Luidam, Authentic, and Armani. Ninja la Silla was among the competing horses but not among the top 18. However, he more than made up for his Aachen performance in Hong Kong. In a sizzling final, Ninja won the silver for his rider Rolf Göran Bengtsson. Authentic was the fastest jump-off horse and grabbed the bronze. Among the Guidam rising stars is Pristanaster sport, a 11-year-old Concorde daughter out of Gristanna ster, bred by Loeffen of Balgoy. She finished third with Daniël Deusser in the CSI Lummen Grand Prix as the best KWPN horse and took fifth place in Wellington. In 2007, she competed in the prestigious La Coruna Grand Prix, where she placed fourth. In addition to his top jumper offspring, Guidam now has three approved sons:

Sandra Nieuwendijk

Guidam: A top sire par excellence

Luidam, Madison, and Amadeus, who received KWPN approval this spring. Additional Guidam sons are approved by different studbooks.

The Best of the Three

Guidam's history is widely known. He was born as Adagio IV on June 3, 1988. His breeder, Jacques Linguanotto of Arnay le Duc, France, is now 69-years old but remembers Guidam quite well: "He was a nicely built foal from the start. And he immediately showed a very strong canter. He trotted very little, but he cantered like a rubber ball. When I went into his pasture, he always caught my attention. I sold Adagio when he was young, but I've always kept track of him. Another thing I remember is that he was very happy and friendly foal; in that respect, he definitely takes after his dam." Guidam's dam, Fougere (s.Venutard SF), barely stood 15.3 hands. Guidam's sire is the Selle Francais stallion

Heritability Data

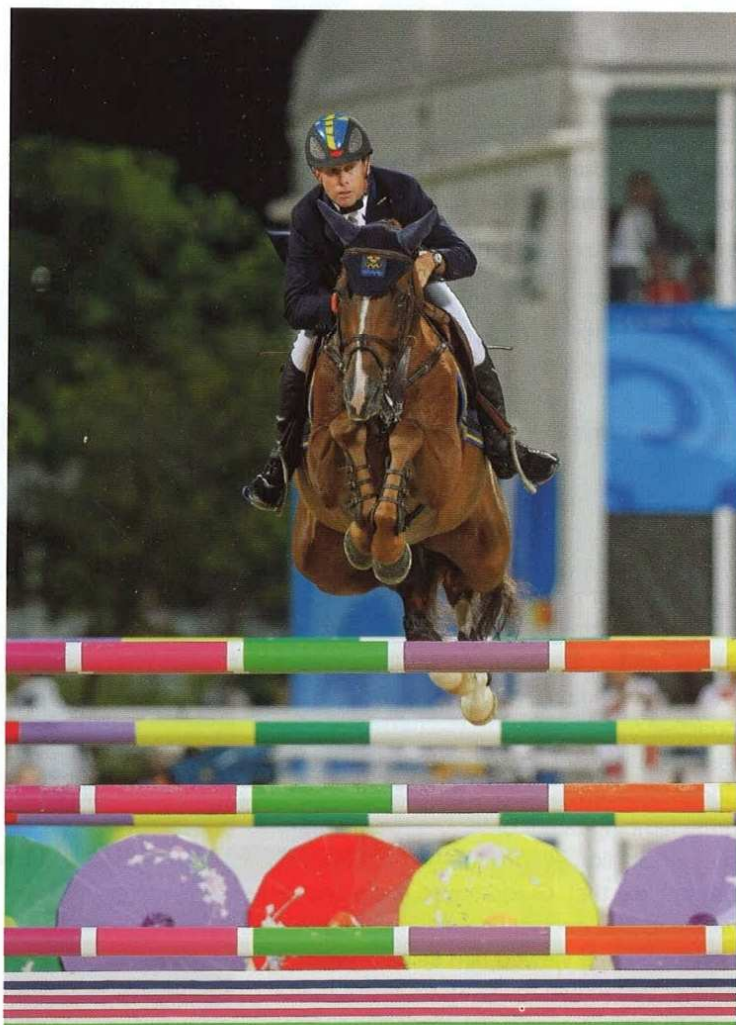
As a sire, Guidam was known for passing on his jumping qualities. However, he did not pass on his conformation. When selecting a mare to pair with Guidam, careful consideration should be given to the candidate mare's conformation. Breeding values for conformation show that Guidam offspring often have square-shaped bodies and horizontally oriented necks. Given the stallion's French origin, these conformation traits are not surprising. The croup is very sloped. The hind legs are straight as are the pastern angles. The trot is functional but not big or powerful. In contrast, the canter is big and powerful. In free-jumping, Guidam offspring are noted for their good reflexes, very good hindquarter technique, suppleness, and scope. The impressions noted with studbook registration have a predictive value for future performance in the sport as evidenced by Guidam's high jumping index and many offspring that compete in the sport world-wide.

Quidam de Revel, who is now widely renowned but was just starting to garner attention around the time of Guidam's birth. Back then, Jan Greve of De Watermolen stud farm and equestrian center in Haaksbergen was in France looking for sons from Quidam's first year at stud. Greve: "People were talking a lot about Quidam at the time. I had seen him jump, which he could do exceptionally well, and his bloodlines were

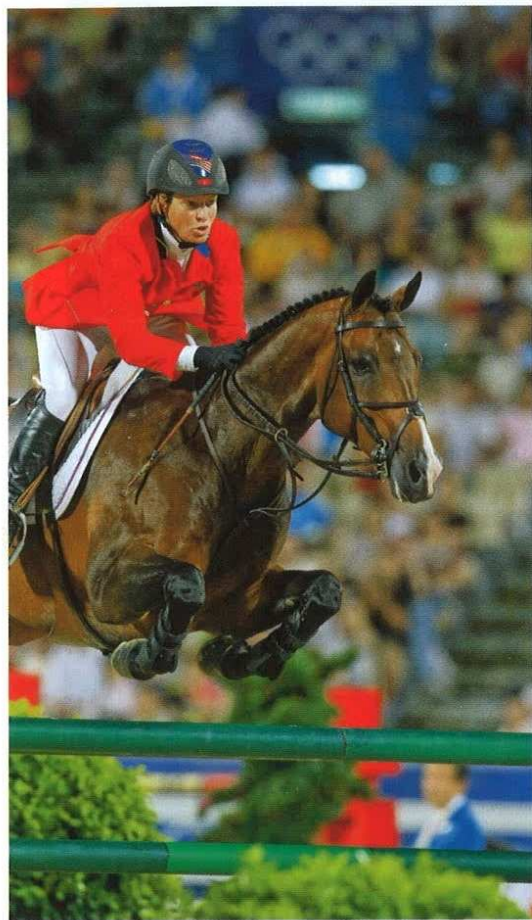
full of proven jumpers. A close acquaintance of mine knew of three young Guidam stallions: One wasn't for sale; the second wasn't good enough, and the third was Guidam. I liked him, so I bought him." Guidam spent the first years of his life in France, but in the fall of 1990, he arrived in Haaksbergen as a two-year-old, where he did not get off to a good start. Upon his arrival in the Netherlands, the "French-



Eric van der Vleuten successfully showed Guidam in the 1.50m and 1.60m division before the stallion was retired from the sport due to an injury.



Ninja la Silla (s.Guidam) won the silver medal at the Hong Kong Olympics. He and Rolf-Göran Bengtsson are a valuable asset to the Swedish jumping team.



Dick Caremans

Authentic (s.Guidam), Beezie Madden's Olympic medal winner, was declared the 2006 FEI Horse of the Year.

man" was put in a group of other young colt, but these did not accept the newcomer. They followed Guidam like predators and the young stallion fled in panic, jumping over the high fencing to escape to safety. Unfortunately, Guidam's escape attempt failed, and he found himself caught in the fencing. The result was a serious injury to his hind leg. The leg never fully returned to its normal size but fortunately did not hinder the stallion's subsequent show career.

At the Stallion Show in Den Bosch, Guidam was one of the horses chosen, and he qualified to participate in the performance test in Ermelo, where qualities such as his uncomplicated, pleasant temperament and great jumping talent drew positive attention. The stallion even scored 9 on both parts of the test. Guidam was easily approved, and that decision caused quite a stir. His supporters viewed him as a remarkable athlete that would make an excellent match with Dutch mares. On the other hand, his numerous opponents objected to his dubious bloodlines, and therefore overlooked

his qualities. Since then, both inspectors and supporters have been proven right, for Guidam has been very important as a sire with respect to definitively putting Dutch jumpers on the map.

Almost Always Clear

Jumper rider Peter Geerink began training Guidam as a young jumper. "I rode him in the stallion competition as a four-year-old. He was careful as a young horse, but he had a lot of scope. He was also easy to work with. He wasn't a difficult stallion; he had a good and honest temperament. He did well in the stallion competition but didn't get the highest scores. He was a bit big and lanky, and he needed more time to get stronger."

Geerink's experience is consistent with Greve's: "In that early period, Guidam wasn't a remarkable jumper. He never cleared the jumps by a meter like some of the others did; however, he almost always jumped clear rounds. In his first year, he didn't cover many mares. At the time, he had a formidable competitor in Goodtimes, who was approved the same year. Perhaps people stayed away from Guidam because of his relatively unknown dam-line." In Guidam's second year at stud, Luidam was born. This stallion was approved by the KWPN later in his life for his international performances and became one of Ireland's star horses under Billy Twomey. In Guidam's third year at stud, Greve bred

Offspring

Guidam has a total of 1300 breedings to his name. Of his offspring presented at the Stallion Selection, three have been approved for breeding: Luidam, Madison, and Amadeus. Of his 137 daughters registered in the Studbook, 34 are ster, 8 are keur, and two are preferent. In general, Guidam offspring have square-shaped bodies and steep croups. The necks usually have a horizontal orientation. The stallion strongly passes on his big, powerful canter; scope; and suppleness over jumps, as well as his pleasant temperament. Guidam's oldest offspring in the sport are now over 10 years old, and they contribute to the stallion's high sport index: A jumping breeding value of 155 with 92% reliability.

him to Zwiggy keur preferent prestatie (s. Nimmerdor), a match that produced the KWPN approved stallion Madison. Interest in Guidam began to grow slowly but surely. In 1995, Authentic was born in the Netherlands. Originally named Nimrod, his breeders are Henk and Herman Morsink of Wierden and Rijssen. The same year, Noblesse Oblige, now known as Armani, was born to breeder Heerebeek of Best. According to the horseman Greve, breeders had to meet just one requirement to get a good Guidam foal: "Whether the mare was a riding horse or a harness horse, she had to be sharp, in other words, 'hot'. Guidam wasn't right for lazy,



Dick Caremans

Luidam received KWPN approval later in his life as the result of his international performances. Shown by rider Billy Twomey, Luidam is one of Ireland's star horses.



Jacob Meijssen

The stallion Madison was approved for KWPN breeding in 1999.

fat mares. His foals really take after their dams in type and color, but they inherit all Guidam's scope and elasticity. He was the best after Voltaire!"

After Geerink, Julian Kraay (De Watermolen's resident rider at the time), became Guidam's new rider.

Genetically Uncomplicated

Greve eventually traded a 50% share in Guidam for a 50% share in a special two-year-old Aram son, an auction foal from Henk van Uitert. A year later, the two-year-old was presented at the Stallion Selection but was not approved. He was subsequently sold to an American buyer as a hunter. However, Van Uitert remained Guidam's co-owner. When Van Uitert unexpectedly passed away, his son Jan van Uitert and Jan's wife at the time, Nancy Huijsmans, took over all the family's horses, including Guidam.

The stallion was brought to the south of the country to the couple's training and sales barn in Esbeek. Huijsmans, in particular, always believed strongly in Guidam. Huijsmans: "The stallion had just arrived at our barn when we got a request from someone in Zwolle, asking if we would please let him jump in the Best Stallion competition. It was all on the spur of the moment, and at that point, we hadn't had time to find a rider for him, so we quickly looked for a catch-rider. That turned out to be Albert Voorn. Although the competition

was Voorn's first time to ride Guidam, the pair easily finished in third place. Then we took our time looking for a rider in the neighborhood to train Guidam further."

Of the potential candidates, Eric van der Vleuten's riding style impressed Van Uitert and Huijsmans the most. The professional rider carefully brought Guidam along in his

training and a year later competed in Zwolle for the Best Stallion title, which Guidam won. Following that event, the combination made their international debut. Huijsmans tried to be present for all the in-country competitions, but she could only attend the foreign shows on occasion.

In 1995, Van der Vleuten won the Accumulator in Mechelen and successfully competed the stallion over 1.50m and 1.60m courses. However, fate intervened when Guidam injured himself at a show, seriously damaging the joint capsule in his fetlock. Faced with a very long lay-up, a decision was made to end Guidam's show career.

"The Vleut," (Van der Vleut's nickname) has fond memories of Guidam: "I initially didn't find Guidam to be a unique horse; actually, I like blood horses a lot, and Guidam really wasn't one of those. However, when I tried him, I got such a nice feeling from him that I thought he was worth the gamble. It turned out well. Guidam was a very nice horse with a good temperament, not too hot and not too cold. He had the disposition to jump difficult courses and was a winner in the ring, given that he could go fast in the jump-off. What's more, he really had a really nice canter and very good balance on the



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Amadeus is the youngest Guidam son who is approved for breeding.



The rising star *Pristanna* (s.*Guidam*) recently finished fourth in the prestigious *La Coruna Grand Prix* with rider *Daniël Deusser*.

Dirk Caremans

course. However, he could be a bit difficult in his mouth because of his French blood. I really enjoyed that horse. He was uncomplicated and affectionate. I truly had a bond with him, and I don't have that with all horses."

Of course, *Guidam's* premature retirement from the show ring was a huge disappointment, but his owners had strong faith in him as a sire. He had finally built up a respectable record in the sport. Nevertheless, the southern breeders, in particular, dismissed him. *Huijsmans* was baffled by the response: "*Guidam* proved himself fully in the sport and did all the difficult tests, but he didn't attract many clients in this area. Perhaps the negative dam report scared off breeders, but that report wasn't fair because the dam was 20 years old when *Guidam* was approved for breeding. He deserved more mares; he was truly a wonderful animal. After he recovered from his injury, I started training him again lightly, and I could do a Z-level dressage test with him. He was uncomplicated and picked up everything I tried to teach him, and he passed on that

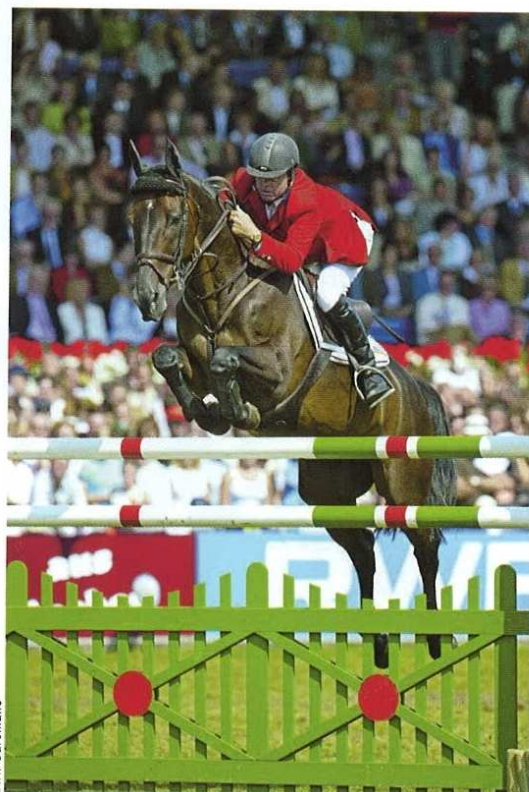
temperament to his offspring." *Huijsmans* bred her mare *Olympica* (s.*Lys de Darmen*) to *Guidam*, a match that produced *Ninja la Silla*, the horse that won the *Bagnaia Grand Prix* with *Giorgio Nuti*. *Ninja* is currently *Rolf-Göran Bengtsson's* mount, and the two have been a strong combination for some time. Five years ago, *Olympica* gave birth to another *Guidam* foal: *Watch*. His name is not a reference to the future; instead, he got the name because his birth was at least seven weeks overdue! *Watch* was not presented at the *Stallion Selection* as a three-year-old. *Huijsmans*: "The *KWPN* looks for big stallions with rectangular-shaped bodies. *Watch* is just like *Ninja*, not too big, but his temperament is just as good as his sire's. For the rest, of course, we'll just have to wait and see."

Eventually, *Guidam* was taken to the *Zwartjens* family's *Tivoli* stallion station in *Raalte* to stand at stud, an arrangement that *Paul Hendrix* helped facilitate. *Huijsmans*: "*Guidam* had many more opportunities there, and he covered the good

mares. Actually, we didn't intend to sell *Guidam*. Buyers had approached us in the past, and we always said 'no.' But then we got an offer from an Irish buyer that we really couldn't turn down."

Irish Adventure

Four years ago, *Tom Rowland* of *County Mayo* brought the keur stallion *Guidam* to *Knightfield Stud* in *Ireland* to bring "stride and scope" to *Irish* breeding. In *Rowland's* view, *Irish* broodmares lacked scope and a good canter. *Guidam* would change that. According to stud farm manager *Eyleen Nugent*, *Knightfield Stud* struck gold with the acquisition of *Guidam*: "It was exactly the right time and the right place for the best horse! We had previously bought mares in-foal to *Guidam*, but we never dreamed that we'd have him here at our own barn. He arrived in *October 2004*, and we realized we had everything we wanted with him. In our eyes, he was *Ireland's* best jumper stallion ever. We now have 17 yearlings by him and 20 foals on the ground, all out of mares with proven jumper bloodlines. Dealing with *Guidam* on a daily basis was a real pleasure. He was obedient, and his offspring take after him strongly in that respect."



Dirk Caremans

Armani (s.*Guidam*) represents the U.S.A. in international show jumping with *Jeffrey Welles*.