

Kannan

Good advertising for KWPN breeding

The Voltaire son Kannan has an excellent reputation around the world, making him an outstanding standard bearer of KWPN breeding. In the sport, he proved his world-class talent first under Guido Bruyninx and later under Michel Hécart. As a breeding stallion, he has been equally successful thanks to his numerous top jumper offspring, including the Olympic champion Nino des Buissonnets. As a result, Kannan currently ranks second on the WBFSH list for breeding stallions.

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Breeder Wobbe Kramer:
“Kannan has exceeded expectations in both sport and breeding; even so, he’s never been that popular with Dutch breeders.”

Kannan’s continuing success is good reason to once again shine the spotlight on this stallion, who was granted KWPN-recognized status in 2011.

Although currently stabled in France, Kannan is available to breeders around the world.

On 18 April 1992, Kannan was born on the property of his breeders, Wobbe and Marietje Kramer of Oud-Beijerland in South Holland. Soon after the colt’s birth, the couple knew that they had made the right decision by breeding their good Nimmerdor broodmare to the international jumper stallion Voltaire. They decided to name their new colt Kannan, after their foster child from India. “Kannan was an incredibly long-legged foal; he hardly dared to lie down. Sometimes it took a half-hour before he had his long legs folded up so he could lie down. Kannan was a very lively and energetic foal: from the start, he really liked going outside and galloping full-speed around the pasture,” recalls Wobbe Kramer. Once Kannan was old enough, the

Kramers presented him in the first round viewing of the KWPN stallion selection. “I’m still puzzled as to why he didn’t do well there. Back then, the stallions were presented on the hard ground first and then sent to the viewing pen for free-jumping. But there’s no use looking back; I’m glad everyone knows about his talent now,” says Wobbe Kramer. Full of confidence, the couple kept training their stallion. Next, Kannan showed in the VSN competition for three-year-olds, which at the time was judged on free-jumping. Wobbe Kramer: “At the pre-selection in Oosteind, he scored a 9.2 for jumping. He jumped fantastically, and they praised his unlimited scope. As a result, he qualified for the final in Ermelo, where, unfortunately, the stallion before him jumped out of the viewing pen while we were standing there waiting our turn. Kannan also got loose and ran all over the parking lot before we caught him. Because of that incident, he didn’t jump as well as the other horses in the viewing pen.”



Kannan has excelled in both sport and breeding. Awarded KWPN-recognized status in 2011, the stallion boasts an on-going succession of Grand Prix jumper offspring, including the Olympic champion Nino des Buissonnets.

Extraordinary Talent

Kannan also demonstrated his great talent under saddle, which led Guido Bruyninx to purchase a 50% share in him in late 1996. The stallion was four years old at the time. "I saw Kannan at the Kramer family's place, and I was immediately convinced by his extraordinary talent! Even at the age of four, everyone could see he was a very promising horse. I was fortunate to be able to buy a share in him, and that's when I started riding him," explains Bruyninx, who competed Kannan as a five-year-old in the Belgian cycle for young jumpers, in which the stallion tied for first place.

Wobbe Kramer: "We had an agreement with Guido that he'd show Kannan in the cycle, and after that, we would likely sell him. We had agreed on a sale price together. People lined up to buy Kannan, and within a week we had a serious offer!"

That serious offer came from Francois Mathy, an international horse sales professional. He purchased the Kramer family's share in Kannan, and Guido

Arnaud Evain:
 “Kannan has an incredible number of offspring in the international sport.”

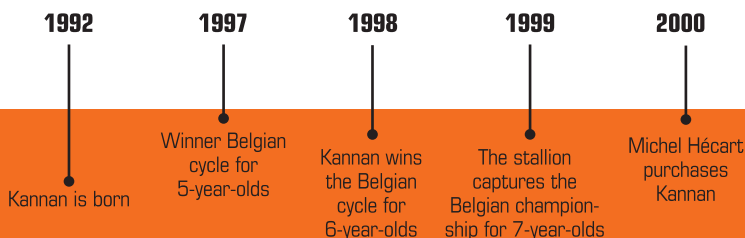
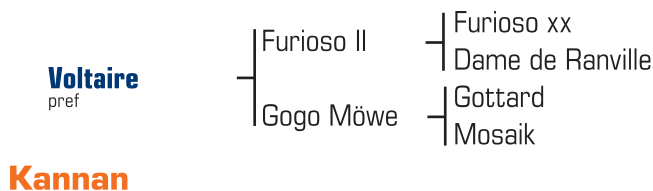
Guido Bruyninx:
 “Even as a young horse, everyone could see that Kannan was phenomenal; it was impossible not to notice him.”

Bruyninx kept his share. As a six-year-old, Kannan experienced success again in the Belgian cycle, capturing the competition for the second time and confirming his great potential. As a result, he qualified for the world championship for six-year-olds in Lanaken, where he initially competed under Francois Mathy Jr. Naturally, Wobbe Kramer was at the venue to show his support for his home-bred horse. “The first two days Kannan jumped really great! Unfortunately, Francois got into an automobile accident and broke his arm, so he couldn’t show him in the final. But fortunately, Guido was able to take his place. Anyhow, it was a wonderful championship for us: our home-bred horse Kannan competed in the final for six-year-olds; and our other home-bred horse Interest, who’s out of the same dam as Kannan, showed in the final for seven-year-olds under Gerco Schröder,” explains Wobbe. Interest (s.Apollonios xx) eventually became an international show jumper and competed in the European Championships for Young Riders in Moorsele.

A Record Price

Kannan’s success in the sport continued: as a seven-year-old, he placed second in the Belgian cycle; and later in the season, he captured the Belgian championship. From the start, he was an attention-getter in the show ring, which led to increasing demand for the stallion. “He was also simply a lot better than the rest,” explains Bruyninx. “It was really difficult to get a fault on him because he was such a talented horse: he was so careful, had so much scope, and such a great temperament! It’s a rare combination, and I’m very happy that I was able to train him. He was a fantastic horse to work with, and he always did his very best.”

Next, Francois Mathy took over the reins from Bruyninx and competed Kannan as an eight-year-old in the Sunshine Tour in Vejer de la Frontera. “That’s where the wife of the top French rider Michel Hécart saw him, and she immediately wanted Kannan. The sale was finalized, and then Hécart started riding Kannan,” explains Bruyninx. The stallion had sold for a record price, but he exceeded all expectations: it was a golden purchase. Kannan continued his international success under Hécart and soon made his Grand Prix-level debut. Breeders also capitalized on Kannan’s talent: in 2001, the stallion was bred to 270 mares despite his high stud fee of 8,000 French francs. He has since continued to breed hundreds of mares each season.





The Kramer family still breeds several horses from Kannan's line. Among them is Kannan's half-sister, who produced this 1.40m jumper, Van Meta (s.Quick Star).

Hécart

At age eight, Kannan jumped to his first Grand Prix victory under Michel Hécart, and many more victories followed. "In La Baule, they were the only double-clear combination in the Nations Cup. They were also provisionally selected for the 2004 Olympics, but unfortunately, Kannan got injured. He recovered but not in time for Athens," says Wobbe Kramer. Kannan won several Grands Prix in his career, including the 2003 Grand Prix of Deauville. Eventually he earned a regular place on the French show jumping team and contributed to the team's top position in the Samsung Super League in 2003 and 2004. In 2005, Kannan won the French championship and competed in the European

Championships in San Patrignano. Kannan unfortunately sustained more injuries, and given the high demand for him from breeders, the decision was made in 2006 to turn him into a full-time breeding stallion. With his strong pedigree and success in the sport, no one was surprised when he proved to be a first-class sire and produced offspring which excelled in the young horse championships. Over time, Kannan's talented young offspring have developed into top world-class competitors. The most recent WBFSH ranking includes 73 Kannan offspring, and there are many international show jumpers whose dam's sire is Kannan. His son Pikachu de Muze (ds.Chin Chin) was the six-year-old world champion jumper under Billy Twomey. Of course, Kannan's most famous offspring is the Olympic champion Nino des Buissonnets, who achieved world-wide fame under Steve Guerdat and ranks high in the WBFSH standings. Other top Kannan offspring include Quannan R, Baldo DS, Oh d'Eole, Bridget, Dazzle II, and Kismet.

The Future

Michel Hécart retained registration of Kannan until mid-2009, when he was sold to British stallion keeper Kenneth Rehill of The Stallion Company. For Rehill, the purchase was a dream come true. Kannan was transported to his new home at Twemlows Hall Stud in England to continue his life as a

breeding stallion. However, he didn't remain in England for long. Renowned French horseman Arnaud Evain brought Kannan back to France. As chairman of Groupe France Elevage (GFE), he believed that horse breeding in France needed the top stallion. Evain speaks highly of Kannan's excellence as a sire: "Every day we discover new Kannan offspring in the international show results. When we bought Kannan, he had about 120 international show jumper offspring, and that number is increasing rapidly. His offspring don't usually do that well in the competitions for four-year-olds, but they all excel from age seven on. They're horses that have a lot of scope and desire to work, and they're careful. Because of those traits, even less-talented riders can achieve success with Kannan offspring. They always do their best and try to jump clear, which is why you see so many of his offspring at the higher level. I expect that he'll rise to the top of the WBFSH sire ranking. He still has many more offspring to come!" After finishing fifth in the WBFSH ranking in 2011, Kannan climbed to second place last year, just behind the great Baloubet de Rouet and ahead of leading sires such as Darco, Quick Star, and Heartbreaker. ●

