

# Numero Uno

## Sire of the Highest Caliber

**Numero Uno is an unstoppable sire. His sons from his first year at stud, Tamino and Tyson, are on the Dutch A-team. And even though his oldest offspring are only eleven, they boast a series of noteworthy achievements at the highest level. Numero Uno offspring occupy the stalls of many top facilities all over the world, a fact which makes the sire a worthy ambassador of KWPN horses. In early February, this outstanding Libero H-son was awarded the preferent predicate for excellence as a sire, just three years after being crowned keur.**



Jacob Melissen

*The KWPN-approved stallion BMC Unaniem is one of the most promising Grand Prix jumpers in the country. Under Ben Schröder, he recently finished fifth in the Grand Prix of Amsterdam and won bronze at the Dutch National Championships.*

The most recent statistics of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) ranks Numero Uno eleventh, making him by far the highest ranked stallion in his age group. From his first years at stud, he boasts 65 FEI-registered offspring which compete at the international level. In addition, he is unique in his ability to make a distinct mark in breeding with his outstanding offspring which possess good reflexes, abundant scope,

and a very willing attitude. Born on April 25, 1995 to Martien van Deursen of De Rips, Numero Uno is the youngest stallion in the past ten years to receive the KWPN preferent predicate.

### A Stallion with Distinct Traits

The traits that Numero Uno demonstrated as a three-year-old in the performance test are also evident in his offspring. In the 1998 fall performance test, Numero Uno

was described as an honest, reliable, and willing stallion. He demonstrated a powerful, very balanced, and elastic canter, with good collection. In his jumping evaluation, he was quick off the ground, demonstrating abundant push and clearing the jumps well. He also was very careful, and he showed abundant scope.

Numero Uno shares many similarities with his phenomenal sire Libero H, who made history when he won the 1994 World Cup final and proved to be a sire of exceptional caliber. Libero H's outstanding traits, particularly his conformation and movement, are passed on by Numero Uno. His dam Jolanda, who comes out of the small but strong Holsteiner-line 429, combines two great sires in her pedigree: Lord Calando and Ahorn Z.

With jumping talent in his genes, Numero Uno proved himself in the sport under several riders. With Marco Kutscher, he competed in international show jumping through the 1.50m level. "Under Marco, Numero Uno placed in the top three internationally about 25 times. He had a wonderful attitude and always wanted to go clear. He inherited those qualities from his sire Libero! Those kinds of horses don't want to make any mistakes, and world-class sport demands that kind of attitude," explains Daan Horn of De Wiemselbach Stud Farm, to whom the stallion is registered.

### Numero Uno as Sire

Numero Uno is also a successful breeding

stallion that convincingly passes on his handsome conformation, movement, and exceptional jumping talent. His offspring often have a slightly sunken topline and are known for being sensitive. Numero Uno's oldest offspring turn 11 this year, and many are very successful at the international Grand Prix level, such as Sterrehof's Tamino (out of Larianne s.Farmer, breeder: E. ten Hoer of Hoogersmilde) with Marc Houtzager, whose wins last year include the Grand Prix of De Steeg and who made many important contributions to the Dutch team.

The power-house jumper Tyson (out of Kickyqueen elite sport(jump) s.Voltaire, breeders: G. Lindeboom and E.J. Meijer of Dal'sen), ridden by Leon Thijssen, is likewise good advertising for his sire. Tyson's list of Grand Prix victories includes those in Mechelen, Stockholm, Maastricht, Leszno, and Lisbon. In addition, he won the KNHS/KWPN Championship for the VION Cup at ages six and seven.

Other Numero Uno offspring competing at Grand Prix level are Tico (out of Olisina s. Celano, breeder: S.R.J. van den Berg-Broerse of Veghel), under Katharina Offel, whose accomplishments include second place in the Grand Prix van Pforzheim; the mare Take Off (out of Odile sport(jump) s. Indoctro, breeder: J. Coolen of Kelpen), who regularly finishes in the ribbons with Eric Lamaze; Talk About Me (out of Nenetester s.Hamlet, breeder: D. Wassink of Heelweg), who competed in the European Championships under Dmitry Berestov; Tobalio (out of Obalia B ster s.Jacorde, breeder: B.H.J. Schröder of Lattrop Breklenk), who won the Grand Prix in Valkenswaard with Tom Brinkman; and Take One (out of Oniel elite sport(-dres) s.Karandasj, breeder: J.W. de Waal Malefijt of Bennekom), whose wins include the 1.50m Grand Prix of Lake Placid with Christine Tribble McCrea.

Additional Grand Prix horses that are good advertising for their sire Numero Uno include Tosca (out of Gerolia keur sport(-dres) s.Zortin, breeder: the M.L.C. Verbakel family & Son), under Margie Engle; Tia Maria (out of Iregina keur sport(jump) prest s.Nimmerdor, breeder: H. Veldhuis of Borculo), with Jos Verlooy; Timo (out of Loretta W keur pref prest s.Damiro, breeder: G.J. Bosman of Heerde), ridden by Tim Gredley; and Tinky Winky (out of



*Under Steve Guerdat, the talented jumper Urgent III is a formidable competitor in the international sport. He has finished in the prize money in several Grands Prix.*



*Take Off's list of achievements continues to grow under Eric Lamaze. The pair has won prize money in several prestigious competitions, among them Spruce Meadows.*

Dinky keur pref s.Zeppelin, breeder: P.J.M. van den Bogaard of Aarle Rixtel), under Leon Thijssen.

Several jumpers from Numero Uno's second crop of foals, born in 2001, are also excelling at the top of the international sport. Among them is the KWPN-

approved stallion BMC Unaniem (out of Passivona keur pref by Voltaire, breeder: J. Sturkenboom of Schalkwijk), with Ben Schröder. One high point of the pair's career is their outstanding fifth place finish in the 2011 Grand Prix of Amsterdam. Another remarkable Numero Uno son born



Dirk Caremans

*Numero Uno offspring excel both in the sport and the inspections. His daughter Willemijn was National Mare Inspection Champion in the keur-/elite division, and she set a record IBOP score of 91.5 points.*

in 2001 is Urgent III (out of Pepite s.Julio Mariner xx, breeder: W.B.J. Platzer of Nieuw Schoonebeek), ridden by Steve Guerdat, who recently won the 1.50m competition in Vigo. Their victories last year include the Grand Prix of Neuen-dorf. In 2007, I Belong to You (out of Manita by Hamlet, breeder: A. Zandber-gen of Hattemerbroek), also born in 2001, won the gold medal in the six-year-old division of the South American World Championships for Young Horses, under Nuri Dijks.

### **Internationally Successful Off-spring**

Numero Uno's son, the Danish-approved stallion Uno's Safier (out of Cilvira ster s.Amor, breeder: A. Zweepe-Koezen of Delden), is a talented international show jumper under Andreas Schou. Last year, the stallion was one of the trendsetters in the Sires of The World competition in Lana-ken, where he finished fourth. In the same class, his contemporary, BMC Unaniem, also placed in the top ten. In addition, Uno's Safier contributed to Denmark's win in the team competition in Barcelona. Other noteworthy Numero Uno offspring are Tuberthus (out of Obertha ster s.Peter Pan, breeder: H. Poppelaars of Kortgene, who placed second in the

Grand Prix of Nimes, Trento (out of Nerma keur pref s.Iroko, breeder: A. Florijn of Geesteren); VDL Groep Veumonia (out of Eumonia pref s.Joost, breeders: H. van Steenbergen of Ospel and A. de Crom of Weert); and VDL Groep Tattoo (out of Nevermind keur s.Lux, breeder: Th. Ten Brinke of Varsseveld). Prior to his approval, Numero Uno sired the ster mare Scooby Doo (out of Oellie s.Kojak, breeder: B.A.M. Kamphuis of Ootmarsum), a Grand Prix-level show jumper, ridden by Filip Lacus, whose achievements include a second place finish in La Boissiere. Among Numero Uno's younger offspring, many show great potential and are expected to become international show jumpers in the future.

### **Numero Uno Daughters**

Numero Uno boasts a jumping index of 141 with 95% reliability. His ability to pass on conformation and movement is above average, with scores of 105 and 107, respectively. Remarkably, Numero Uno consistently passes on good rectangular-shaped conformation with a long, well-muscled neck, a straight croup, and angled hind legs. His offspring typically inherit an elastic trot and a big canter. In free-jumping evaluations, Numero Uno offspring are noted for their good reflexes, excellent body use, carefulness, and abundant scope. According to the annual overview of the ability tests (IBOP and EPTM), Numero Uno scores very high as a sire. In fact, he is the most influential jumper sire of mares which have participated in the IBOP. Last year, eleven Numero Uno daughters passed the IBOP. The current IBOP record is held by the elite sport(jump) mare Willemijn (out of Herar-da elite sport(jump) pref prest s.Nimmer-dor, breeder: A. den Hartog of Amster-dam), who earned the highest score ever under the new IBOP system: 91.5 points. In addition, she won National Mare Show Champion in the keur/elite division and currently boasts 20 points in ZZ-level show jumping. Willemijn also competes successfully in the junior division under Charlotte Verhagen.

Numero Uno offspring also excel in the mare inspections. Of the 232 mares accepted into the Studbook, 55% hold a conformation predicate, among them 56 ster mares, 32 provisional keur mares,



Jacob Meijssen

*In February, Numero Uno joined the ranks of a very select group: KWPN preferent stallions. At age 16, he is by far the youngest among them.*

15 keur mares, and 24 elite mares. Forty earned the sport predicate (jump), and 100 received the PROK predicate. Numero Uno has produced several mare- and foal champions. “Numero Uno is also doing well abroad. In fact, he sired two foal champions in Holstein, as well as in Westfalen and France. German and Belgian breeders use Numero Uno often. He covers a lot of mares both in the Netherlands and abroad. Semen from Numero Uno is exported to approximately thirty countries, including the United States, Australia, and South Africa,” explains Horn.

### Approved Sons

Numero Uno has also made an indelible mark as a sire of sires, a pre-requisite for the preferent predicate. To date, he boasts six KWPN-approved sons: Tygo (out of Domine ster pref prest s.Purioso, breeder: T. Kraan Muskens of Hekedorp), Unaniem (mentioned above), Van Gogh (out of Movera pref s.Bernstein, breeder: Stultiens of Weert, Inc.), Viënto Uno-W (out of Jendy pref s.Wisconsin, breeder: H.P.M. Oosterveer of Wateringen (now a gelding stabled abroad), the KWPN Stallion Show Champion Vincenzo (out of Kyra keur pref s.Ekstein, breeder: L. Meulenbergh of Guttecoven), and Warrant (out of Karanta keur pref prest s.Nimmerdor, breeder: G. Reuls of Panningen-Helden), who was approved at age four. In turn, Warrant is the sire of the 2011 stallion selection champion, Durrant, who is from Warrant’s first crop of foals.

Among Numero Uno’s six approved sons, Unaniem competes at Grand Prix-level, and Tygo, Van Gogh, and Warrant are international show jumpers. Under his previous rider Angelique Hoorn, Tygo’s achievements include four victories in international classes in 2009 and a fifth place finish in the Grand Prix of Odense. His current rider is Manuel Fernandez Saro of Spain, who rides for Tygo’s co-registered party, Alan Waldman. Unaniem recently won the bronze medal at the Dutch National championships with Ben Schröder.

Van Gogh is a successful 1.45m-level show jumper, whose accomplishments last year include placing in the Grand Prix of De Wolden (GP level). With Caroline Müller in the saddle, the stallion will

likely make his Grand Prix debut this year. “We have high expectations for that horse. He has very good jumping form and scope. Now it’s mainly a matter of putting kilometers on him,” Horn explains. Recently, Van Gogh enjoyed success in the 1.45m Grand Prix of Aarhus. Warrant recently came under the saddle of Jeroen Dubbeldam, who is showing him internationally in the eight-year-old division. Likewise, Vincenzo competes at the 1.35m-level under Sophie Horn. “He was unilaterally gelded after he got a scrotal hernia, so he’s a bit behind his peers as a sporthorse. He’s been back in the show ring a few months now, and I think he’ll be a nice 1.45m horse,” according to Horn.

### Uniform Offspring

Perhaps Numero Uno’s best quality is his ability to uniformly pass on his traits, which gives breeders more insight into the type of foal they can expect and negates the saying “breeding is gambling.” “Numero Uno breeds very uniformly. He almost always produces beautiful dark bay foals with good rectangular-shaped conformation, an attractive neck, and a big eye. They have a lot of movement, a good canter, a nice front end, and presence. What’s more, Numero Unos have a very distinct way of jumping,” says Horn.

Notably, Numero Uno does not require a particular type of mare. Horn: “He fits well with a variety of mares because he distinctly passes on his traits. I always say, as long as a mare is not too extreme, she’ll fit with Numero Uno. He also produces good jumpers with mares from totally different bloodlines. For instance, Urgent III, who’s a successful jumper, is out of a Thoroughbred-cross mare by Julio Mariner xx. Numero Uno has also sired top horses like Tyson and Unaniem, who are out of Voltaire dams.”

### Value of the Preferent Predicate

Horn greatly values Numero Uno’s preferent predicate. “It’s a nice reward for the stallion. We’ve always been convinced of his quality, but it’s good that the KWPN also communicates with its breeders this way. We consider it a very nice gesture, and it also gives us satisfaction in everything we do here at the stud farm. We



Jacob Meijssen

Ridden by Marc Houtzager, Sterrehof’s Tamino is a top world-class horse and has competed on the Dutch show jumping team several times.

want to thank breeders for their faith in Numero Uno because without the right mares, no stallion can succeed, of course!” Despite Numero Uno’s continuing success, the Horn family has not increased his stud fee this year. “We consciously decided not to increase Numero Uno’s stud fee this year, despite the fact that he’s the highest-ranked youngster in the WBFSh stallion ranking, and he’s now preferent. Many breeders can’t afford to use a stallion with a stud fee of € 2,500, and we don’t want Numero Uno to be available exclusively for a relatively small group of breeders who can afford a high stud fee. Maybe we’ll raise it in the future but not this year,” explains Horn.

In February, Numero Uno joined the very select group of KWPN preferent stallions, from which fresh semen is available from only a few. At age 16, the hope is that Numero Uno can benefit breeders for many years to come with his valuable jumper genes.

