

The Winningest Roadster Horse in AMHA History: Sweetwaters Jockers Wild (aka Joker)

2007 World Grand Champion Roadster Horse
2 Time World Champion High-Point Driving Horse



By Michelle Stevens

Our family has often been asked “what is Joker’s story? What is he like? So, here it is. We bought Joker, green broke from Darin Southwick eight years ago, when Joker was a young rambunctious four-year old. My mom went to the Lufkin show and called me with the news that she had bought me a driving horse from a video. This was totally out of character for my mom and kind of worried me. My dad and I flew to Michigan to see Joker and talk with Darin on how best to finish training this horse. This was the first true driving horse I have had the chance to drive and I remember hanging on for dear life and thinking how powerful and awesome he was. We decided to fly him home so that I would have him in time for the Spring Fiesta horse show in Albuquerque, New Mexico...pretty cool!

As we started his training, he turned out to be more challenging than I had first anticipated and we learned together. I would describe one of his character traits as stubborn and he still is. Needless to say, I spent the following years working him through “issues”, my Dad helping out along the way. Backing was one of his trouble areas, it took a while for him to give in and to this day it still isn’t very pretty. We were originally looking for a pleasure horse but Roadster turned out to be his forte, even better!

Most people see Joker as the horse that appears to be a little too wound-up prior to entering the show arena. He is often rearing and acting excited in the warm up area. This is especially the case at the World Show in Fort Worth where he loves to drive down the tunnel that enters the arena. He does love the show ring; especially responding when the announcer yells “drive on” and the crowd cheers.

But there is another side to his personality, possibly a little Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in the ole boy. The horse I see at home is still a bit stubborn and just plain lazy in the round pen, not exerting anymore energy than he absolutely has to. However, he remains super competitive and works hard when he is practice driving at home with other horses; but if he is by himself he moves like a plow pony. I suppose that is why he likes to show so much, it’s for the competition.

So, that is Sweetwaters Jockers Wild and who he really is, a horse who loves to compete. He likes to be out there just like all of our family! ➤