

BEHIND THE STALL DOOR *with*

Extremely HOT Chips

BY MEGAN ARSZMAN

It's not every day you see a stallion step out of the breeding barn and compete, successfully, in the show pen with a non-pro rider aboard. It's an even more impressive feat when that show pen is the Celeste Center at the All American Quarter Horse Congress. But that's what happened when Russ Louderback jogged in his beloved stallion, Extremely Hot Chips, to pick up his medallion for his top five finish in Select Amateur Western Pleasure in 2015.

"How many 10-year-old stallions do you see walking around the Congress, after breeding 70 mares, competing with an amateur riding, and still placing?" Louderback asks.

For Louderback, owning one of the up-and-coming Western Pleasure sires in the country is a hobby, and he plans to enjoy every minute of the ride. The hotel developer grew up in Ohio showing in 4-H competition and took a break from horses while going to college.

"I always wanted to get back into horses, but I swore that I wouldn't until I had the means to do it right—I didn't want to do it halfway," he says.

After his company went through a large transaction, Louderback decided it was time to get into real estate. He purchased 70 acres of land in Fishers, Indiana, and designed and built his barn, complete with an indoor arena. It was time to get back into the horse game. "I started buying horses, and then I really had the fever," he recalls.

Louderback purchased a couple of mares, A Cooki For Certain and Tootsee Roll, and then he got the itch to own a stallion. After looking at some younger stallions, Chris Jones suggested Louderback look at an aspiring stallion, then owned by Cheryl Mullikin, named Extremely Hot Chips.

"I said I can't believe that Cheryl would ever sell him, but Chris told me to go big or stay home, so I went big," Louderback says.

The sale was one of the toughest decisions of Mullikin's life. "I had an offer I just couldn't turn down," Mullikin says. "That was the hardest decision ever for me; I just really loved that horse."

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Like Father, Like Son

Extremely Hot Chips, also known as “Chip,” is by Blazing Hot and out of Miss Trophy Chip, by Zips Chocolate Chip. Trish and Carl Yamber owned Miss Trophy Chip and partnered with Joan Schroeder to breed their mare to her bay stallion, Blazing Hot. As she did with Blazing Hot, Schroeder foaled out Chip on her own and kept him on the farm until Carl came to pick him up as a coming two-year-old to begin training him for Western Pleasure.

“God has been good to me as far as getting good mares to breed to good stallions and getting good results,” Schroeder says. The breeder just knew she had something special with Chip, as every day he reminded her more and more of his daddy.

“He definitely has the characteristics of Blaze,” Schroeder says. “One of the most important things is their mindset, and they both have great personalities. They’ve impacted people in ways you can’t imagine.”

When trainer Wade Black saw Chip as a two-year-old, he immediately called Mullikin and said this stallion was the horse she needed to have.

“I had my eye out in case one like him popped up for sale,” recalls Mullikin. “Anything Wade says I should buy, I trust his instincts and his opinion. I was able to see him right before we left on vacation—his presence and movement was just outstanding,” she says.

That presence in the pen didn’t go unnoticed. In 2008, he was named the NSBA High Point 2-Year-Old Intermediate Open Western Pleasure Champion after earning the NSBA 2-Year-Old Intermediate World Championship and placing sixth at the World Show in 2-Year-Old Snaffle Bit Western Pleasure with Black aboard.

Mullikin showed Chip to win the 2009 Congress Futurity 3-Year-Old Limited Non-Pro Championship title, as well as wins at the Tom Powers, Southern Belle Futurity, and Reichert Celebration. The stallion placed in the top 10 at the AQHA World Show five years in a row, with his last trip placing seventh in Senior Western Pleasure in 2012, after winning the Senior Western Pleasure at the 2012 NSBA World Show.

His correctness and movement caught the eye of more than just



the judges, but other trainers and potential breeders, too.

“We would have other trainers ask to ride him just to feel his movement,” Mullikin says. “You can just see the correctness in the way he moves.”

“When I saw him [as an early 2-year-old], I thought he was very natural. He carried himself uphill and had a lot of natural ability and natural rhythm to him,” Bret Parrish says.

“In the show pen, he has a ton of eye appeal and gives off a strong first impression,” says Ashley Lakins. “When he hits the pen, you know he’s there. I think there are some horses that don’t have that, but he does. He has that eye appeal that makes you want to look at him.”

Heating Up a New Trail

Chip started his breeding career at the end of his 3-year-old year, and he’s now back where it all began—standing under the guidance of Schroeder. During the breeding season, he is stalled near his sire



in Collinsville, Texas. His success as a sire is starting to become apparent. He sired three winners of the 2016 Western Pleasure Super Sires Futurity: Decidedly A Diva, Extreme Moonlite and Extremely Good Stuff. Now, his progeny is starting to excel in other events. This summer, Carolyn Price rode Hez Pretty Extreme to win a NSBA World Championship in Green Junior Trail.

Not only does Louderback take great pride in Chip’s success, but so does Schroeder. The two work as a team to promote Chip and grow his breeding career.

“You learn a lot of lessons in this business, and I’ve learned some expensive ones with Chip at the beginning,” Louderback says. “Now, I’ve surrounded myself with some great people. If you were going to develop a hotel, I’d say you’d be crazy not to hire me because I know hotels in and out. But when it comes to breeding professionals that know the industry, Joan’s the one.”

Schroeder is more than happy to be able to stand and promote a son of one of her outstanding stallions.

“I think he really has the characteristics of Blazing Hot,” she says. “They both have a kind eye and want to please. That’s not something that’s trained into them—you either have it or you don’t. Personally, I think Chip is better than Blaze, and it was something

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that I bred for; to improve on his sire. He's more up in his shoulders and has a better front leg. With Blaze and the Doc Bar lines, they have that great hock that gives them their drive and reach. With Chip, I never worry about what his hocks look like. Chip is the next generation; he's better and I like it," she concludes.

Chip has fans in trainers across the country, and both Lakins and Parrish have appreciated having him in their barns over the years. They are now training his foals as well as breeding their own mares to him.

"I don't know if we would have bred to him if he hadn't been in our barn," Lakins says. "When you have a stud in the barn, and you know how they act and how they are to be around, it makes you want to breed to him."

"Chip is an outcross, which is good—we need that in the industry," continues Lakins. "I believe he's going to be a very nice sire for the pleasure horse industry."

Whether he's enjoying off time at Louderback Ranch in Indiana, or Schroeder Ranch in Texas, his rich, dark coat seems to glisten all the time, making grooming a breeze for Louderback.

"He's beautiful—we don't have to maintain him much. He's just a good looking male model," he says as he pats his beloved stallion. "He doesn't like to get in trouble. He just likes to do his job, and he seems to pass that same work ethic on to his foals."

Not Your Average Stallion Owner

Louderback will be the first to tell you that he's not your average stallion owner. When he was looking to purchase a stallion, he wanted to be able to enjoy his purchase.

"The first year I owned Chip, I was a little dismayed at the process of breeding," he says. "But, I haven't regretted it. This is all a hobby for me. I don't like losing money, but he's starting to do well with babies in the pen."

When Louderback isn't traveling for work, he can be found at his farm riding Chip and his other horse, Xtreme Krymsum. Even at the age of 10, and without being in regular training, Chip still

knows his job and will go around the arena like he's back in the show pen.

"When I bought him, I liked that fact that I could ride him, show him, and breed him. There aren't many stallions that you can do that with, and there aren't many owners stupid enough to do it like me," he laughs. "But, I like to ride. I love taking him to Congress and just walking him around. He really draws a crowd."

Louderback realizes his choice to show Chip at the Congress seems crazy to some, but he mostly wants to enjoy his horse and let others enjoy seeing him compete.

"Russ is not your average stallion owner," Schroeder says. "But Chip is his horse, and this is his passion. Russ loves him as much as I love Blaze, so he can do whatever he wants."

"If I ever got to the point where I was embarrassing the horse, then I wouldn't show him. But, apparently I'm not, because we're usually in the top five, if not first, at all the shows I take him to," he says.

And that's without any professional training. "I think he does a really nice job getting him prepared," Lakins says. "We help get Chip ready as far as doing his mane and cleaning him up, and we'll give Russ a few pointers, but that's about it. He owes himself that credit for sure."

"I don't like bragging because you can always eat your words, but I like bragging on him because I didn't have anything to do with him as a show horse—Wade Black made him as a horse, and Cheryl and Joan have made him as a stallion," Louderback says.

He also knows he wouldn't be able to do what he does without the support of his wife, Leigh Ann. He says that she had seen some of his early deals that weren't so successful, but hung in there with him until he found that one special horse: Extremely Hot Chips.

With a grin, Louderback says that 2016 will definitely be Chip's last Congress ... maybe...

