Windfall CB

1995 black, 17-hand Hanoverian stallion
SIRE: Weltmeyer; DAM: Ferge; DAMSIRE: Fashion King
BREEDER: Ewald Wimberg

RIDER/OWNER/TRAINER: Charlotte Bredahl-Baker, Solvang, CA

Olympic rider Charlotte Bredahl-Baker's barn less than two years when he won his first Horse of the Year title, at Third Level, in 2001. Now the horse she found as a five-year-old in her native Denmark—and "the minute I saw him, said 'I've got to have that horse"—has done it again, this time at Intermediate I. Along the way, his show record led to his being named Horse of the Year by the Hanoverian Society at Fourth Level in 2002 and at I-I for 2004.

Windfall has been busy in his other career as well. Two years ago he became an approved sire in the Hanoverian, Rhinelander, Oldenburg, and ISR registries. Since then, says Bredahl-Baker, "he's been breeding about 20 mares a year—and that's been without a lot of advertising, because I'm still competing him, so I don't want him too busy."

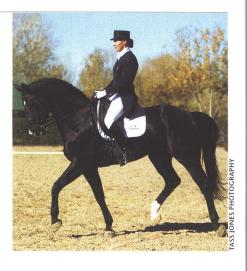
These days, Bredahl-Baker and Windfall are schooling the Grand Prix movements. "The piaffe was a little challenging and took a little longer than I would have hoped," she says, "but now he has a really good, classical piaffe. His passage is wonderful, really high up off the ground. The changes have been easy all the way

through, and the one-tempis have been no problem. And he's naturally very supple, so the sideways stuff—the lateral work—is easy. I'm hoping that by early summer he'll be ready to show at Grand Prix."

So is he perfect? Well, almost. "He can get a little behind the leg and a little bit lazy; but from what I hear, that's typical of a stallion." On the other hand, he's "incredibly kind, one of the kindest horses I've ever met. He never reacts in any kind of an angry way, even under the pressure of training."

The good behavior isn't just around people, either. At home, Windfall is "out in the pasture all day, and there are mares and babies very close by, and he's very relaxed. At shows, he can be next to other horses and it's not an issue." All of which lines up with Bredahl-Baker's philosophy regarding horses: "that the more you can treat them like horses and not isolate them, the better. I think it's very important with a stallion—or any horse—not to isolate him, not to keep him away from other horses, which I think is just going to make a stallion more 'studdy."

Windfall did some breeding in Denmark before Bredahl-Baker got him, and she has two of his offspring from that year, both



now five. "One, Windsor, won pretty much everything at Training Level last year." (At the 2003 Dressage Association of Southern California Championships, father and son both showed—and, between them, won all seven classes they entered.) Windsor now belongs to an amateur, but he's "still in my barn; that's the only way I would have sold him because I really love him. He's more like a dog than a horse." The other five-year-old is a mare, Wictoria; "we had an American Hanoverian Society inspection here just a few months ago, and she was the top mare. She got 9 on her walk and 8 on her trot, so that was very exciting."

Bredahl-Baker also has a couple of foals from last year's breedings, and "this is the first time that I've actually had foals, my own babies. It's a lot of fun—a whole new world."

- D.J. CAREY

INTERMEDIATE I RESULTS NUMBER QUALIFIED: 225

1. WINDFALL CB (Hanoverian), Charlotte Bredahl-Baker, owner; Weltmeyer, sire; Ferge, dam; Ewald Wimberg, breeder 71.125%

- 14. MILLENNIUM (Dutch Warmblood), Winterage Stables Inc., owner; Nimmerdor, sire; Diona, dam; G.J. Van Der Helm, breeder. . 67.833%