

1990 - 2008

Foxglove's Gold Dust



Foxglove's Gold Dust (Chiltern Copa of Tower Hill out of Tower Hill's Katie).

Kerrymor Farm lost a cherished member of the family this year when Foxglove's Gold Dust was put to sleep in October. The 14-2-hand dun mare gave so much of herself to others, but one memory stands out as her defining moment.

In 2000, Goldie was about to enter the ring for a dressage test at a schooling show when clouds rolling in over the horizon turned from gray to black and rain started to fall. We began the test anyway (training level 3), hoping to get in our ride, but, as we made the first turn, the rain turned to a torrential downpour. I considered stopping, but we were drenched by then, and I, for one, didn't want to have to start over later.

Suddenly, people all around were screaming, "Get down to the barn. Run!" and the whole show grounds took off at a gallop for the lower barn, a good distance from the ring. What I couldn't hear with the wind and rain pounding on my hard hat was tornado sirens going off. I kept looking at the judge, but she stayed seated and didn't appear to be stopping me, and I wasn't sure what the rules were. Through that driving rain and total chaos, on went Goldie. She finished the test as if nothing had gone wrong. I often wonder how many horses would have stayed with me in the ring that day as everyone else fled in a panic.

As soon as I rode down center line, the scribe

yelled, "Go to the barn," and I finally could hear the sirens. When we got to the barn, it was devoid of people, save one woman who brought me my dog and then quickly joined her daughter in a ditch. The roof sounded like it was going to cave in under the downpour, and several horses in stalls were fretting. Not Goldie. She stood with me in the aisle, happy as ever, again accepting whatever conditions she was handed.

Let's not forget to mention her placement. The judge took our test with her to the ditch, and it came back drenched and mostly lacking ink. But Goldie scored a 63.85 and won the blue.

That was not Goldie's only good test. She constantly scored in the 60s and often was called over by judges who wanted to know her breeding. It was her first year of showing, and I just wanted her to get some experience, but she wound up finishing sixth in Missouri points at training level and went on to get her ACPS silver medallion in dressage.

She was a lady of class, a horse who didn't know the meaning of bad behavior. If she could get a good brushing, she needed nothing more. She will be missed by all who knew her, for she made friends easily and had no enemies.

Take care, Miss Goldie. You will not be forgotten.

Joanie McKenna, Kerrymor Farm