



Original HOA Mare Wins Distance Title

Except from email:

Subject: Barb win Year End Awards !

Date: Mon, 17 Apr 2000

From: Linda Gasparini

Photo: Linda Gasprini and Isa-Gye, second day of the Florida Horsemen's Association's Three Day 100, held in March in Altoona, on the southern edge of the Ocala National Forest.

WE DID IT!!! We just got home from the last ride of the SEDRA (South Eastern Distance Rider's Association) season, and **Isa-Gye** (old HOA #B 75, foaled 1986, by Absaroka Mouse, he by Little Bit out of _____, and out of Tse-Itse, she by Crane out of Country Club) is firmly entrenched as this season's HIGH POINT OVERALL/Grand Champion Winner!!! I can't hardly believe this has happened! Of course, the year-end awards are not handed out until the Awards Banquet on June 26th, but as the season starts winding down, those in the running for high point are usually sharing scores to gloat or groan. My neighbor and riding buddy was been keeping scores, as she was going for this award herself, with her magnificent Arab gelding, Fiaskko. I was routing for her, of course, as I didn't think my little Barb mare could compete with the high scores Fiaskko'd gotten last season, and in the first half of this season.

But Isa-Gye kept on trucking along, slow but steady. We took Reserve Champion at the Sand Hills 25, two weeks ago, and just two weeks after the grueling three day FHA 100, with a near-perfect score of 99.5, while all the closest competitor for High Point were still nursing lameness and/or dehydration issues. And this weekend, we took 1st Place Middleweight, again with an almost perfect score.

Isa really gave me her all, too. She wasn't feeling quite right - had had a bad week previous. First a bout of hives (she hardly ever even shows a bug bite, despite the hordes of flies and mosquitoes this subtropical "paradise" is filled with), then she got a stiff neck from the antihistamines the vet gave her mid-week. Her neck was still stiff on this last ride, and I think this was affecting her, as her working heart rate was reading almost 20 beats higher than normal during the entire ride. Fortunately, her recoveries were still fine.

I am SO proud of her, and my husband, George, is strutting like a peacock (she's his baby)!



Then we got the final news! Isa had WON!

Captions and text from Linda's letter of June 24, 2000

Photo 1 is from the Florida Equestrian Classic, Formerly the Sunshine State Games, held in April at the Florida Greenways Park in Ocala. They have a dressage event and a driving event, each on a separate weekend. This was the last competitive trail ride of the SEDRA season, and a tough one because it winds back and forth through narrow, heavily wooded trails, and they never seem to measure the mileage correctly! This year it was 28 miles long instead of the 25 miles it was supposed to be. The error was in the last “five” miles, so it got interesting at the end. You can see that the landscape is greener here than in other parts of Florida, with some beautiful dense woods. We took 1st Place Middleweight at this ride.



Photo 2 is from the Lake Louisa 25 at Lake Louisa State Park, northwest of Orlando. It's the first ride of the season, in the latter part of October. This was taken early in the morning, which turned out to be unusually cool. That's why Isa-Gye looks so tawny-colored—she hasn't started sweating yet! Normally, it's a very hot, humid ride, with a high pull rate. There are five distinct ecosystems in this very new state park; it has great trails and rolling hills, which we don't have in south Florida – that also makes it a bit tough for our “flatlander” horses! We took 3rd place Middleweight on this one.

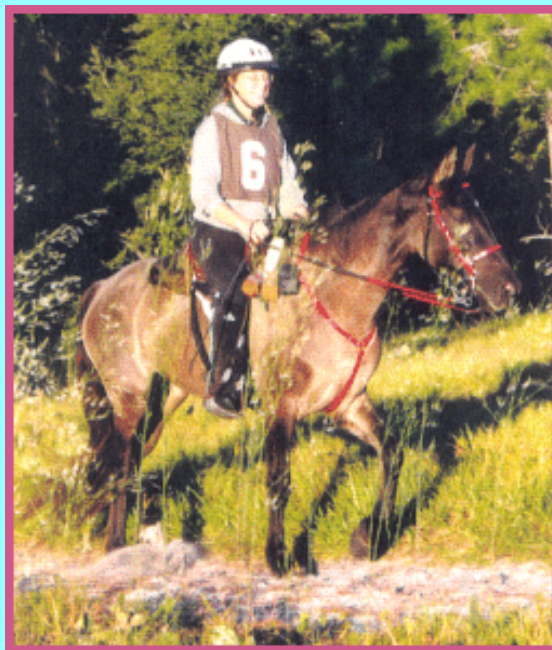
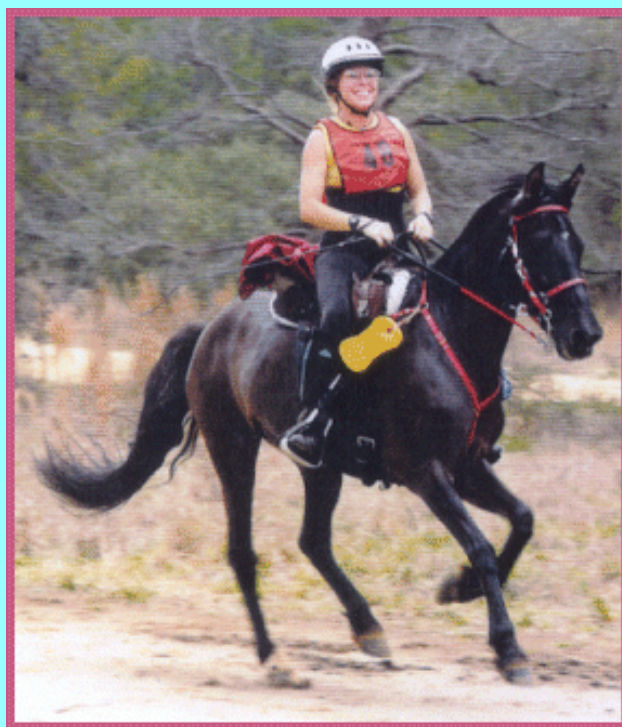


Photo 3 is from the first day of the FHA 3 day 100, which was typical Florida weather – sweltering! Isa looks black because she’s sweating well. The first two days are 40 miles each, the last day is a fast paced 20 miles. The trails in “The Forest” have a lot of deep sand, making this a very grueling ride, maybe even more so for me than for Ms. Is! My back started to spasm at the 70 mile point, so the last ten miles of the second day and the entire third day were tortuous for me.



Riders came from as far away as Canada to take part in this 50th anniversary ride. It is the second oldest CTR in the country, from what I’m told. 25% of the entries were pulled over the three day period, so just finishing was a feat. We finished 5th place Middleweight. This was the ride which separated out my competitors for year end high point; they had all been ahead of Isa and me up until this ride, but all placed lower here than we did, some by as much as 15 points. We maintained our momentum and came in strong for the last two rides of the season and took High Point Overall!

It was a long, but enjoyable season – a lot of hard work, but worth the effort. During the course of the season, I learned a lot about taking care of my little Barb, keeping her fit and comfortable, and helping her do her absolute best. I’d say I’ve learned as much

about horsemanship/management in the last two years of competing in CTR as I did the first thirteen years that I've owned my critters. But it's her strong physique and Barb heritage that gave me a good basis to start with. Long live the Horse of the Americas!

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