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always 'stay the breeder' and that got stuck in my head and it's true," she said. "No matter who owns him, I will always be the breeder and he'll carry the HW with him all his life. In addition, his owner never misses a chance to mention my name and to thank me for trusting her with this boy."

Selten's success, Irene said, is a breeder's dream come true. "Selten HW was only shown at the most important occasions in every year," she noted. "He won nearly all his classes each year with the highest scores possible and holds multiple championships. It's very fortunate that he is sound, a super mover, and it does not hurt that he is black and pretty too! In order to have this success with breeding or a horse, many factors come into play. He has an incredible mind, which I am sure goes back to his dam, SPS High Princess, and a super work ethic. He was brought up and trained very correctly. Next to the gaits and looks, those are some of the most important things in a horse's/rider's life. His success made HW Farm a name worldwide in the horse industry."

Irene credits Hilltop's Michael Bragdell for being the perfect partner for the young stallion. "The two are a really great team and the smile on Michael's face is indescribable whenever he talks about Selten HW," she said. "His owner is a very understanding horse person with huge patience in order to make sure the best will be done for this young horse. She is making plans with Günter Seidel for Selten HW and we all met in Kentucky to see him compete and to find out what the next steps will be. International competition, further training with Michael or with Elizabeth.... we'll see."

As for Irene, she will continue to strive for only the best horses, to breed, import, or resell. "Especially in this market, quality is what sells," she said. "Many people cut back on things they don't really need, but the luxury articles are still desired. Just when everything else is kind of depressing, what could be nicer then to



Selten's breeder, Irene Hoeflich-Wiederhold with her now-Elite candidate mare, Hannahlea HW.

see a super horse move or to ride and have fun with such incredible animals? I keep educating myself with tons and tons of videos, researching bloodlines, and discussing horses with friends and professionals all over the world. It's super interesting to see how stallions produce; which ones are consistent in their production or which ones are phenomenal but don't produce what the crowd had expected."

Irene is hopeful there are more Seltens in her future as a breeder. "It might be wishful thinking," she said, "but if dreams come true, as we can see, why not keep dreaming? I'm not sure if his success can be equalled or topped, but there are several full siblings to him, and other HW farm horses that I'm very proud of. I can't wait to see what the future will bring for them."