

ZIPPOS BLUE GOLD

1993 Grey Stallion
93.315% Foundation Quarter Horse
Son of Zippo Old Gold

Production Record

- Total Points Earned:
1,657
- AQHA Incentive Earnings:
\$33,814
- AQHA World Championship:
\$17,328
- National Snaffle Bit: \$7,047
- Res. World Championships: 3
- Res. World Champions: 2

Stud Fee: \$750
Cooled Shipped Semen

Ferguson Farms, Ennis, TX
(214) 497-3162 (Day)
(972) 875-6605 (Night)
jjferg41@yahoo.com

In English

Excel Eventing

Holme In Time is his Jockey Club name, but nearly every eventer in Area V knows him by his competition name (Excel) or his barn name (Elliott). For 14 of his 19 years, the big Thoroughbred gelding has been a fixture on the Southwestern horse trials circuit.

Owned and ridden by Kristy Limon, Elliott has won three USEA gold medals at the preliminary level and two silvers at the intermediate. For three straight years, the 16-hand bay has been named Area V Preliminary Horse of the Year and was awarded the Walter Straus and the Clover's Eclipse Adult Rider Perpetual Trophies.

Elliott came to Kristy's attention after a short and undistinguished racing career.

"I bought him as a resale project when I was 19 and he was four,"

she recalls. "When he came off the trailer, he was a complete lunatic. But he had the sweetest face, and he settled right down when I got in the saddle. I begged my parents to let me have him, and since my competition mare was three months pregnant, they relented.

"He's not brave. He's very spooky, and it took time for him to build his trust in me."

Since then the partners have won ribbons beyond counting in Area V horse trials. They concluded 2011 with eight top-four finishes.

Kristy had begun riding at the age of four, soon after her parents, Jane and Steve McKetta, moved to from Ohio to The Woodlands. Her father, a petroleum engineer, had accepted an offer to work for Mitchell Energy.

Her mother, an elementary school principal, began taking dressage lessons at a local stable, and Kristy was introduced to horses. She began eventing at 11 and acquired her first horse at 14. Through high school and college, she worked at restaurants to support her hobby.

In 2001, Kristy graduated from the



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Kristy Limon of Magnolia and her veteran campaigner, Elliott. Jim Stoner photo.

University of Houston with a degree in finance and then spent two years with American Express. In 2003, she married Anthony Limon, a business analyst with the Houston office of TransCanada Ltd., the largest pipeline company in the Great White North.

Since then, Kristy has devoted full time to her lessons business, Excel Eventing, based at her parents' Gentle Wind Farm in Magnolia.

She emphasizes safety and fun

in teaching her 20-odd students, the youngest of whom is six and the oldest is "of a certain age." In skills, they range from green-as-grass to upper-level. About half are actively competing in Area V events. Willie, a 12-year-old Quarter Horse, is the farm's lesson horse.

She has continued her own education with some of the stars of the sport and has spent several winters in Florida training with Bruce and Buck Davidson and Karen O'Connor.

A former president of the Greater Houston Combined Training Association, Kristy is serving her sixth year as the Area V representative on the USEA Board of Governors. Besides competing and teaching, she has helped design courses and serves as secretary and judge for local schooling shows.

She also organizes clinics and competitions. Last March, she hosted her first show, a combined test, at the

(Continued on page 18)

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Excel Eventing

(continued from page 17)

family's 40-acre hilltop High Point Farm in Plantersville, near Navasota. And in December, she put on the Candy Cane Derby, with a dressage test and a single jumping round of both show jumps and cross-country obstacles. Three local sponsors lent valuable support: Grayson Patton Real Estate Team, www.SaferRider.com (distributors of the HitAir safety vest), and Coufal-Prater Equipment

Company.

Kristy's husband Anthony doesn't ride, but he builds jumps (more than 20 so far) and helps at the shows.

If the farm expands to 80 acres, Kristy hopes one day to host an official annual USEA horse trials.

On the 2012 calendar, she has arranged eventing clinics with Buck Davidson (February 26-27 at Holly Hill in Benton, La.) and Jim Graham (May 11-13 at Pine Hill in Bellville) and the second annual High Point Farm Combined Test on March 25.

This winter, she's skipping her Florida trip to look for a young prospect to replace Elliott, who is nearing retirement.

"I'm looking for the kind of horse that will take me for another 14 years - at least!"

For more information, visit www.exceleventing.com or call (936) 443-5167. ★

No winter lasts forever;
no spring skips its turn.

- Hal Borland

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*Wishing everyone a
happy and healthy 2012!*



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